



**MARGOT NORMAN**

No sex facts, please,  
we're British

Survey they tried to stop, page 16

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**MODIGLIANI**

Fine line between  
series and surfelt

Richard Cork, Arts page 31

**30P**

# THE TIMES

No. 64,855

TUESDAY JANUARY 18 1994

**Tremor death toll rises as California governor declares state of emergency**

## Los Angeles ablaze after quake strikes

By GILES WHITTELL  
IN LOS ANGELES AND  
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A VIOLENT earthquake shook Los Angeles yesterday, killing at least 16 people, buckling highways, wrecking thousands of homes and sparking hundreds of fires that left the city shrouded in black smoke.

The quake, which struck the San Fernando Valley north-west of the city at 4.31am, was the worst in southern California for forty years, measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale. Some three million people felt its impact as it reverberated from Las Vegas to San Diego, followed by more than twenty aftershocks.

The Los Angeles mayor and the governor of California declared states of emergency and called out the National Guard, while President Clinton offered to do everything humanly possible to help. He indicated that he would de-

**President Clinton promises swift help for Los Angeles after complaints that red tape delayed federal aid for victims of the Midwest floods and Malibu fires**

clare the region a disaster area, opening the way for federal aid.

Although the quake was not as strong as some in recent years, it was unusually destructive because its epicentre was in a densely populated area. Its timing — two hours before rush hour on a national holiday honouring Martin Luther King — almost certainly saved many lives.

Those who died included at least seven people in a collapsed block of flats near the epicentre in Northridge, half a dozen heart attack victims, a police motorcyclist who drove off a freeway that split in two, and a woman who slipped in her home, hit a cot and broke her neck.

Two more people were killed when their hillside home in Sherman Oaks collapsed, and another man from the affluent San Fernando Valley suburb said: "This place was moving like a jackhammer was going at it. Our bedroom wall tore away. I was looking at the ceiling one moment, then I was looking at the sky. I thought we were dead."

Throughout the region, ruptured gas mains sent fireballs soaring into the sky, and dozens of cars in San Fernando exploded from the heat of the gas fires. But as water from burst mains went gushing down the streets, firefighters wading through floods had to turn to swimming pools for water to tackle the blazes when the pressure from hydrants failed.

Traffic was brought to a standstill as the highways buckled and collapsed. At least three motorists were crushed when a bridge over the Santa Monica freeway in downtown Los Angeles collapsed, and another bridge over the Simi Valley freeway gave way in several places.

The motorcyclist who died was killed when the intersection of the Golden State and Antelope Valley freeways in the San Fernando Valley broke up. "We heard his tyres screeching when we were assisting a pregnant woman on the interchange and everyone turned around and we saw the light of a motorcycle pinch over the side," a witness said.

Hospitals were inundated with hundreds of "walking wounded", and at the Sylmar hospital those not seriously injured were told to look elsewhere. "We have no power, no laboratory, no x-rays, no pharmacy and almost no food," the disaster co-ordinator Mark Wallenstein said. The hospital was later operating on emergency power.

Ninety per cent of the city was without power for part of the day and the main airport was closed for two hours. As burglar alarms, car alarms and emergency sirens blended into a constant wail, there were isolated reports of looting and frequent instances of heroism as rescuers pulled people from collapsed buildings and prisoned motorists from smashed cars.

At Northridge, the fire captain Steve Bascom said of the block of flats where at least seven people were killed: "We've got a three-storey apartment that's now a two-storey. We've got people we're pulling out all the time."

Hundreds of people watched as firefighters searched the rubble of the building, which housed mostly students from California State University. Dozens of homes in Sylmar, Granada Hills and Sherman Oaks were destroyed by fire, and million-dollar yachts were sunk as the quake wrecked marinas. Shopping centres, including the exclusive Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, were strewn with glass and ruined merchandise. A freight train carrying 14 tanks of sulphuric acid overturned between Chatsworth and Northridge, but there were no reports of leaks or injuries.

Mayor Richard Riordan said the 40-second quake, on a fault line about 20 miles from the San Andreas fault, had caused major damage, but he insisted that the city had the situation under control.

Governor Pete Wilson called up 1,500 National Guard troops to help with the emergency, and expressed relief at the timing of the tremor. "We were spared what might have occurred if this had been three hours later on a normal day," he said.

**Traffic suburban, page 14**



Devastation in the Los Angeles suburb of Sylmar after a section of the highway collapsed in the quake, hurling two cars into a wall below



A commercial building blazing in the affluent suburb of Sherman Oaks

## 400,000 more will pay tax, Treasury admits

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

SOME 400,000 more people will be drawn into the tax net in April because of the Government's decision to freeze tax allowances in the last two Budgets, the Treasury admitted last night.

The figure, representing a reversal of the Government's avowed aim of taking more people out of tax, was given in a Commons written reply and will give more ammunition to Labour in its attempt to de-

stroy the Conservatives' reputation as the low-tax party. It follows last week's disclosure by *The Times* that an average family will pay far more income tax and national insurance from April than it would have done in the last year of the Labour Government, a finding described by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, as "piffle".

Stephen Dorrell, the Treasury spokesman, said: "The Treasury is not responsible for the Government's policy on taxation."

## Major's evidence on Iraq shows Whitehall confusion

By MICHAEL DYNES  
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Major yesterday attempted to distance himself from the arms-to-Iraq affair by insisting that he was never fully briefed by officials about any changes in the Government's arms export policy.

He told Lord Justice Scott's enquiry that he held three of the highest offices of state without being informed of any decision to boost exports of defence equipment to Iraq before the invasion of Kuwait by President Saddam Hussein in August 1990.

It was the first time that a serving Prime Minister has been called by a member of the judiciary to account publicly for the execution of a government policy.

Mr Major told Presley Baxendale, QC to the enquiry, that at no time while he was Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer or Prime Minister, was he involved in the "consideration, amendment or interpretation" of the

arms export guidelines put in place by Lord Howe of Aberavon in October 1984.

Responding to Mr Major's evidence, Robin Cook, the Labour trade and industry spokesman, insisted that the Prime Minister's explanation that he had not known what was going on left Mr Major open to the charge "that he is a Prime Minister not in control of his government".

Giving his evidence in front of a packed enquiry, Mr Major painted an extraordinary picture of confusion at the heart of Government over the precise nature of Britain's arms export policy in the run-up to Iraq's invasion.

He said he had ordered a trawl of Whitehall documents after the acquittal in November 1992 of the three Matrix Churchill defendants accused of illegally exporting defence equipment to Iraq. It revealed that some officials believed that the export guidelines had been secretly relaxed, while others were convinced that the relaxation had not been implemented.

Mr Major told the enquiry that ministers were determined to avoid accusations of a government "cover-up" and ordered all relevant documents to be reviewed. The trawl of documents generated a "frenetic atmosphere" across Whitehall, Mr Major insisted.

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Continued on page 2, col 4

Scott enquiry, page 7  
Peter Brookes, page 15



Baxendale yesterday questioned Major

## Hurd denies he will go

DOUGLAS Hurd denied yesterday that there was any leadership crisis in the Conservative Party, and dismissed suggestions that he was planning to leave the Government later in the year.

The Foreign Secretary's intervention came as senior rightwingers threw their

weight behind Michael Portillo as a future Tory Leader and Downing Street widened its clash with the media by criticising the BBC for its handling of recent events.

**Boost for Major, page 2  
Mary Ann Sieghart, page 15  
Leading article, page 19**

## Hospital gaffe gives pupils hands-on experience

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

TWO 15-year-old school pupils were asked to stitch patients' wounds after being mistaken for medical students during work experience at a hospital.

The boy and girl, both wearing white coats, were introduced as "fourth years" on separate occasions on Tuesday and Thursday last week to a senior house officer in the casualty department at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. He assumed that they were fourth-year medical stu-

dents, and invited them to stitch patients he was treating.

The boy, from Balfour High School in Stirlingshire, has not been named. He said: "The doctor inserted the needle in the first stitch and I got to tie the knot and finish it off. It was a bit dodgy. The second stitch, which I did myself with the doctor looking on, was much better. I was shaking a bit, but it was quite exciting."

The pupils helped to stitch a plumber's head injury and an elderly woman's leg. Both wounds were minor and needed no more than four

stitches each. In neither case was the identity of the pupils realised, though they could not finish the stitches, which would have posed no trouble to a fourth-year medical student.

Greater Glasgow Health Board said yesterday that the doctor completed the treatment and discharged the patients satisfactorily. The hospital blamed poor communications and lax systems. Children on work placement would normally be restricted to nursing areas and geriatric units, but the request from their head teacher went through the wrong

channels and bypassed the hospital general manager, Nigel Clifford, who said he had apologised to the patients. "Systems must clearly be tighter. In future, all school pupils on work placement will wear clear identification badges and be introduced to the person in charge of each department as non-clinical personnel."

The blunder came to light only when the doctor involved spoke to the pupils in technical language. At that point, another staff member said they were school pupils.

## Why Does Your Memory Fail You?

A WORLD-FAMOUS memory expert, who has trained industrialists, trades unionists, businessmen, professional men, salesmen, housewives and students to improve their memories, once said:

"Many people are embarrassed by a poor memory, and find difficulty in concentrating, whilst others realise that they lose business, academic and social opportunities not only because they cannot remember accurately everything they see, hear or read, but also because they cannot think or express their thoughts clearly, logically and concisely. Some seek advice, but many do not, mainly because they believe their memories cannot be improved."

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# I see no leadership crisis, Hurd tells Major's enemies

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

DOUGLAS Hurd gave John Major a much-needed boost yesterday by denying for the first time persistent speculation that he was planning to leave the Government later this year.

The Foreign Secretary said there was no leadership crisis and pinpointed John Major's quiet style as one of the reasons for the attacks on him by the admirers of Baroness Thatcher.

He denied that he was staying only because Mr Major had asked him to do so, another of the allegations that surfaced after last week's private Downing Street dinner.

At the same time Mr Hurd went close to blaming the Thatcherite right inside the press and media for some of Mr Major's troubles.

The Foreign Secretary

backed Downing Street in its battle with the broadcasters and the press by accusing some newspapers of building up "a crisis that isn't real", as the row over reports that the Prime Minister had vowed to "crucify" the right continued.

He said: "There is clearly not a leadership crisis. There was not one in the autumn when a lot of the national papers were reporting one and there certainly is not one now."

"The Prime Minister has given the lead and as the economic recovery continues, as people feel more secure and prosperous in their own lives, the lead he has given will begin to have an effect on the way people look at the Government and at politicians."

He went on: "The kind of leadership he gives is different from that which Margaret

Thatcher gave and this causes some of the difficulty for some of the people who quite understandably and rightly admired her. But each prime minister is bound to have their own style of leadership."

"I personally think that the style of leadership which John Major gives, which is quieter but I believe equally firm, is apt and is needed for the 1990s."

As the Cabinet rallied behind Mr Major, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, brushed off the Government's problems as a "rough patch" from which it would bounce back.

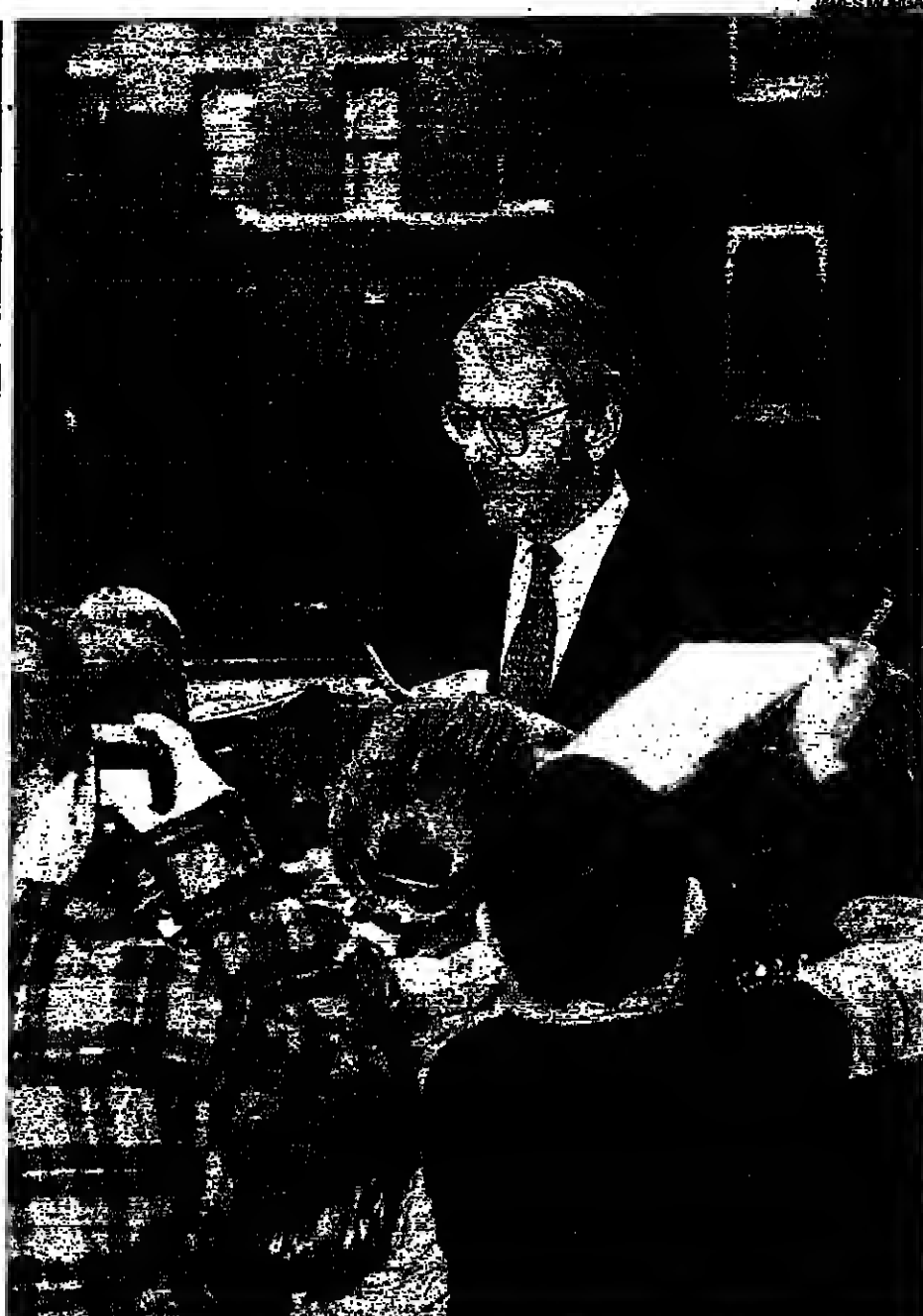
John Redwood, the right-wing Welsh Secretary, insisted the Cabinet was united and accepted Mr Major's denial of alleged comments about tackling the right. Stephen Dorrell, a Treasury minister, dismissed talk of a challenge to Mr Major later this year as "bar-room gossip."

But in a further indication of the febrile political mood, senior rightwingers threw their weight behind Michael Portillo as a future Tory leader. Lord Parkinson, the former party chairman, said that if and when there was an election the Chief Secretary to the Treasury would "not be short of friends."

Lord Parkinson, a member of the right-wing Conservative Way Forward group, said that Mr Portillo drew a large audience when addressing the group on Friday "and they said, 'You have been very good to us, and if and when there is a chance to help you, you can count on us'."

Downing Street criticised the way the BBC had handled last week's events. It said that a *Newsnight* programme had wrongly suggested Mr Major was unhappy with Mr Portillo's speech in defence of British institutions, when it had been cleared by the Prime Minister in advance, and that another programme had wrongly described a routine meeting at No 10 as a crisis meeting on back to basics.

He was adamant, however, that answers to parliamentary questions were always "honest and truthful" and that Parliament had never been know-



John Major leaving No 10 yesterday to give evidence to the arms-to-Iraq enquiry

## 'Hands-off' Major criticised

Continued from page 1  
however, that he was still not convinced that the Howe guidelines had ever been changed.

Pressed by Lord Justice Scott over whether William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office minister, Alan Clark, the trade minister, and Lord Trefgarne, the defence minister, had secretly agreed to change the arms export guidelines in December 1988, Mr Major said that was a question that only the enquiry could decide.

He was adamant, however, that answers to parliamentary questions were always "honest and truthful" and that Parliament had never been know-

ingly misled. Answers to parliamentary questions were something of an "art form", but they were never answered in a manner designed to "mislead or avoid political embarrassment", the Prime Minister said.

Later Gerald Kaufman, Labour's former foreign affairs spokesman, insisted that in the past Mr Major had conceded that the guidelines had been changed, and that MPs had been told of the revision. Mr Major's evidence to the enquiry was "not compatible" with his past statements on the affair, Mr Kaufman said.

Mr Cook, who was first in the queue for the public hear-

ing at 7 am, later said that Mr Major's defence was "both clear and discreditable". His explanation "is that he did not know what was going on in the departments for which he was responsible."

Michael Meacher, Labour's public service spokesman, said Mr Major had shown an "extraordinary lack of awareness and a remarkably convenient amnesia". His "whole evidence was a catalogue of non-referrals, non-enquiries, and non-involvement. He is the most hands-off Prime Minister of modern times. It just does not add up," he said.

Mr Cook, who was first in the queue for the public hear-

Scott enquiry, page 7  
Peter Brookes, page 18

## Bridgewater police cover-up denied

Merseyside police was involved in a cover-up of its investigation into the murder in 1978 of the newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater which prevented a new referral to the Court of Appeal, a senior forensic scientist said yesterday.

The allegations by Eric Shepherd, who was retained by the force during the investigation, were strenuously denied by the Home Office and by Merseyside police which said it had conducted and reported a full and frank enquiry. The Merseyside report formed the central part of new evidence reviewed by Kenneth Clarke, then Home Secretary, when he decided in February last year not to refer the case back to the appeal court for a second time. Dr Shepherd believes the enquiry team engaged in "selective reporting" in its submission to Mr Clarke. Carl, 13, was shot in the head with a sawn-off shotgun after apparently disturbing burglars at Yew Tree Farm, Stourbridge, West Midlands.

## Witness threat warning

The judge at the trial of 11 men and a woman who deny serious sex offences against children warned that anyone trying to intimidate witnesses would face long jail sentences. Mr Justice Kay, who allowed his remarks to be reported even though the jury was not present, spoke after hearing that an adult witness had received an anonymous telephone death threat. Later Swansea Crown Court was shown video film of a boy aged 11 describing how he and other children were taken to a barn to be sexually abused by a paedophile gang, including his father. The trial continues.

## Woman climber dies

A doctor, Katherine Herd, 28, of Cruden Bay, Grampian, died in hospital after eight hours in freezing conditions when an avalanche swept her and two climbing partners 400ft down the 3,500ft An Lianach in Wester Ross, Highland. A fourth companion, aged 17, trekked miles for help. A walker, Judith Leslie, 29, of Dundee, is seriously ill after 16 hours in the Loch Brandy area of Glen Clova. She was caught in a blizzard wearing only a T-shirt, fleecy jacket, tracksuit bottoms and light waterproofs. Rescuers found her and a male companion after their car was noticed at a hotel.

## Mother's surgery agony

A mother told a court yesterday she awoke during a Caesarian operation. Carol Kewley, 33, of Blackpool, is claiming damages against the Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Health Authority, which denies negligence. She alleges that she came to as her daughter was being born at Victoria Hospital, Blackpool. Mrs Kewley, who says she is still suffering psychiatric problems, told Manchester High Court: "It was like somebody was ironing my stomach with a red hot iron. It was as if something was pressing the life out of me... I felt I was going to die." The case continues.

## Father admits killing

The father of a trainee pharmacist whose battered body was found on moorland by rambles pleaded not guilty to her murder yesterday but admitted manslaughter. Linda Fleming, 23, was found dead near Halifax a year ago. Derek Fleming, 51, a former joinery firm manager of Elland, West Yorkshire, was flanked by two prison officers in the dock at Leeds Crown Court as the charge was read to him. He said he was not guilty of murdering his daughter between January 21 and February 1 but added: "I will plead guilty to manslaughter." The case was adjourned until today.

## McAlpine art for sale

Lord McAlpine of West Green, former treasurer of the Conservative Party, is to sell a large collection of works of art from his gallery in Cork Street, Mayfair. The 1,500 objects, estimated at £200,000, range from mammoth's bones to medieval and renaissance art. They will be auctioned at Sotheby's on February 17.

## Peer admits assault

The Labour peer Baron Monkswell, left, assaulted a psychotherapist with a spanner, a court was told yesterday. Lord Monkswell, who is married with three children, admitted assaulting Robin Cooke in his clinic in Withington, Manchester, where he was treating the peer's girl friend, Lord Monkswell 46, of Northern Moor, Manchester, was remanded on bail for sentencing reports.

## Northern wonder gutted

The Corn Exchange, one of Doncaster's finest civic buildings, was wrecked by fire yesterday. Forensic scientists are trying to establish the cause of the fire, which started in a corner cafe area and caused damage estimated at £1 million. The Exchange was opened in 1873 and at the time was considered a Northern wonder because of its elaborate roof.

## Best little station

Lingwood station, Norfolk, was named yesterday as British Rail's best unsatisfied station. The award was presented in London to Joy Long who, using her own money and with her husband and friends, has spent three years restoring the station. Euston was named station of the year, with other awards going to Doncaster, Ipswich, and Mexborough.

## Brooke wary of media free-for-all

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THE Government has given warning that it is not prepared to allow the further concentration of media ownership into the hands of a few publishing and broadcasting conglomerates unless strict consumer safeguards are introduced.

Peter Brooke, the Heritage Secretary, said the media industry should not allow itself to get "carried away" by the vision of a multi-media future with a handful of international audio-visual companies replacing regional and national media. "If one voice becomes too powerful, then democracy is damaged," he told a meeting of The Media Society in London. "Any healthy democracy must have a culture of dissent, a babble of voices."

In a veiled warning to newspaper groups that have been lobbying hard to be allowed to buy ITV com-

panies, he said too much deregulation should not be expected too soon.

"Newsprint and videotape are powerful weapons, and can do great harm in the wrong hands or concentrated too heavily in too few hands. The Big Bang approach may not be the best way to evolve."

Mr Brooke was making his first public speech since his announcement two weeks ago of a wide-ranging review of cross-media ownership, which aims to encourage creation of British media conglomerates large enough to compete in the international market.

He said the regulations that allow Rupert Murdoch to control five national newspapers, including *The Times*, as well as the satellite broadcaster BSkyB were not a legal loophole, and had been designed to encourage investment in the satellite television industry.

Threat from left, page 18  
Leading article and Letters, page 19

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## Sleeping pill firm sues BBC

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

ONE of the world's biggest drug companies, accused of lying about the side-effects of a sleeping pill to put profits before the health of patients, launched a High Court claim for libel damages against the BBC yesterday.

The American Upjohn company, whose best-selling sleeping pill Halcion was taken by millions around the world, is challenging a *Panorama* programme, "The Halcion Nightmare", which was broadcast in October 1991 within weeks of the drug's ban in Britain.

The Michigan-based company and its UK subsidiary are claiming damages against the BBC and Professor Ian Oswald, a former professor of psychiatry at Edinburgh University, who wrote a critical newspaper article.

The hearing of the claim, regarded as important for the freedom of the media to investigate allegations of malpractice by wealthy corporations, is expected to last four months with legal costs likely to exceed £3 million.

## 400,000 more will pay tax

Continued from page 1  
sury Financial Secretary, said that freezing the personal allowance at £3,445 in Norman Lamont's last Budget in March, and Mr Clarke's first in November, would raise £1.1 billion for the Exchequer and "about 400,000 more people will pay tax."

He was replying to Jeff Rooker, the Labour MP who was the co-architect in 1977 of the so-called "Rooker-Wise" amendment which required that personal allowances should rise in line with inflation. Apart from the two most recent Budgets, they have been frozen only once before, in 1981.

Ministers have long spoken of their aim of taking as many people as possible out of tax. The lowest income tax rate of 20p has been extended in recent Budgets and the long-term aim remains to get the basic rate to that level.

Mr Rooker said last night: "It is bad enough to increase the overall tax burden, as the Government has done. It is outrageous to call on 400,000 extra low-paid people to share that burden."

## Officials met IRA in 1990, says Sinn Fein

By Jill Sherman and Nicholas Watt

THE Government's first meeting with the Provisional IRA was in October 1990, two and a half years earlier than Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, had previously acknowledged, Sinn Fein said yesterday as it published its version of messages exchanged with Britain.

Sinn Fein claimed that London initiated the first meeting and sought to deny government assertions that it was a message from the IRA on February 22, 1993, that had opened the way to the Major-Reynolds initiative. No such message was sent, and the claim was "entirely bogus", Tom Hartley, Sinn Fein's national chairman, said.

Mr Hartley told a press conference called at Westminster by Tony Benn, Labour

MP for Chesterfield, that Sinn Fein's record of events "places in perspective the ridiculous refusal of the British Government to clarify the Downing Street declaration and its repeated assertions that it will not talk to Sinn Fein."

Downing Street dismissed the move as a diversionary tactic. A spokesman insisted that the Government stood by the set of documents it released last year. "What we published was all the authorised messages consequent to the IRA's message on February 22, 1993."

Mr David Nicholas, former chief executive of Independent Television News, called on Peter Brooke, the Heritage Secretary, yesterday to lift the Government's broadcasting restriction on Sinn Fein.

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## Pensioner 'killed by mother' in revenge for attack on girl, 4

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MOTHER exacted her own murderous retribution after charges were dropped against a pensioner accused of sexually molesting her four-year-old daughter, a court was told yesterday.

In a frenzied knife attack, she slashed at his genitals and sank the 5in blade into his chest up to the hilt. The man died within minutes from massive loss of blood. The woman told police when they arrested her: "He deserved it."

Yesterday at Leeds Crown Court, the woman from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, who cannot be identified to protect her child, denied murdering John Lockwood, 65, outside his home in the city last May.

Her older daughter denied attempting to pervert the course of justice by providing her with a false alibi and replacing her bloodstained clothes.

Paul Worsley QC, for the prosecution, told the court that the woman had decided "that if the state could not give her justice then she would be judge and jury and mete out her own revenge for what she believed had been done".

He said that the build up to the attack had been a "slow and calculated process" over five months, part of which had been detailed in her diary.

It began on January 6 last year when the woman wrote that her daughter claimed Mr

Lockwood had given her a "sexy kiss, posing his tongue in her mouth". The next day she wrote that her daughter had said nothing when interviewed by police. "The bastard, he is dead," she wrote. "I am going to kill him."

Mr Worsley said the woman then began a campaign against Mr Lockwood. She would leave abusive messages on his answering machine and was also believed to be responsible for a poster pinned to the door of the local

**Whether he was guilty or not she decided she was above the law. No one is entitled to do that.**

chip shop bearing Lockwood's photograph and saying he was an abuser of children.

She told the man's wife: "If I see him on the street I will kill him. I will do it slowly and painfully. I want him to suffer a million pains."

On April 1 her daughter gave a full statement to police. The woman wrote: "She told them everything that bastard did to her and more. Now justice can be done."

Mr Worsley said that during April the woman received

treatment for alcohol problems. One diary entry recorded a row with a neighbour to which police were called. "My mind just snapped. I don't know how I can cope," she wrote.

On May 17 the Crown Prosecution Service wrote to Mr Lockwood to say there was insufficient evidence to proceed to trial. The woman was not informed and continued to believe he would appear before Wakefield magistrates. When he did not, she went to his house after consuming a quantity of vodka.

Mr Lockwood, who was in his garden, locked himself in his car after she began shouting. The woman produced a knife and smashed the car window. The fatal blow struck him below the right shoulder as he sat in the car.

As Mr Lockwood struggled from the car, the woman left the scene throwing the knife in a nearby garden and saying: "That will teach him to mess around with my kids."

Mr Worsley said: "It is a normal human reaction to punish someone who has harmed your child, but there was insufficient evidence that Mr Lockwood was guilty."

"Whether he was guilty or not, she decided she was above the law and she took the law into her own hands. No one is entitled to do that."

The trial continues.



Two of Erik Mortensen's creations for Scherrer: a sleeveless cocktail top and a taffeta evening dress

## Fairy-tale world created on catwalk

IT MAY not have made an earth-shaking fashion statement, but Erik Mortensen's couture for Jean-Louis Scherrer would make many women's dreams of a fairy-tale world come true.

The Cinderella gowns in dreamy colours, the sparkling arabesque embroidery and trim suits in navy, gold and cream would fill the wardrobes of the Arab princesses and presidents' wives to whom the Scherrer house has always catered.

The white satin pyjamas with matching chiffon coat that started the show signalled a more light-handed tailoring than Mortensen showed when he took over from the house's discarded founder and designer, Jean-Louis Scherrer, a year ago.

Indian-inspired pyjama suits of deep turquoise, topaz, violet and midnight blue with gold-embroidered edging will make exotic evening wear for hostesses. Cocktail sheaths several inches above the knee in georgette or taffeta, with swirls of embroidery and hand-painted edging, had airy chiffon capes floating behind the models.

Mortensen seemed to feel that the salad-eating, middle-aged couture clients want to show off the results of relentless dieting and hours of exercise with their private trainers. "Women want to show their legs. It's not my fault, it's in the air," he said backstage after the show.

## Vicar stole church statues

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A VICAR stole from churches while under great strain after leading a campaign against the ordination of women.

The Rev Stephen Ashton, 38, formerly vicar of Braegle with Gernoe, Cornwall, who has received treatment for severe depression, stole four prints, a plaster figure, candlesticks, crosses and statues from several village churches, magistrates at Launceston were told.

He has now resigned from the Church of England and intends to join the Roman Catholic Church.

Ashton and Cameron Luke, 24, his organist, both admitted the theft of four prints from Morwenstow Church, north Cornwall. Ashton also admitted stealing a plaster figure from St Mary's Church in Par, Cornwall. Both asked magistrates to consider three similar offences.

Ashton was sentenced to 100 hours' community work and put on probation for two years. Luke, a music teacher, was ordered to do 60 hours' community work and placed on probation for 18 months.

David Lightfoot, Ashton's solicitor, said that through his views on the ordination of women the vicar had received "the most appalling threats".

## Court sees sexy video of actress

By A STAFF REPORTER

A HIGH Court jury was yesterday shown a sexy video tape of the actress Gillian Taylor-Firth playing with a German sausage and a wine bottle.

The 35-minute amateur film was produced on the fifth day of an action in which Miss Taylor-Firth, who appears in the BBC television series *EastEnders*, is suing *The Sun* over allegations that she performed oral sex on her fiancé in a car on a slip road off the A1 in June 1992. Mr Justice Drake told the jury that the video tape had only just come into the hands of the newspaper.

The film was shot during a party in April 1988 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Anna Scher Theatre in Islington, north London, and at its conclusion in a wine bar. Miss Taylor-Firth also posed on the steps of the theatre with the bottle. The video faded out as she began to unbutton her blouse at the wine bar.

The party began quietly with a speech by Miss Scher, the theatre's founder, and cutting a cake, but became rowdier as the tape wore on. As they left for the wine bar, Miss Taylor-Firth posed with the bottle in her mouth, and said: "I'll sell my services along the

road, and we'll get about £250." Recalled to the witness box by George Carman QC, for *The Sun*, Miss Taylor-Firth said the wine bottle did not have a sexual connotation for her at the time. "I was very, very drunk. The party had been going on for three hours. We were in high spirits. It was a private video. If someone had said it was for public use I would not have done it."

Mr Carman asked if she thought it was indecent in any way for a woman in her position, with a regular part in national television, to stand in the street and behave as she had done. Miss Taylor-Firth said she would not have done it if there had been other people around. It was just a joke between friends.

Mr Carman asked if that afternoon represented how she might behave when the worse for drink. "No, that's not the way I conduct myself in public."

Even by today's standards, however liberal, her behaviour had been "pretty disgusting", Mr Carman said.

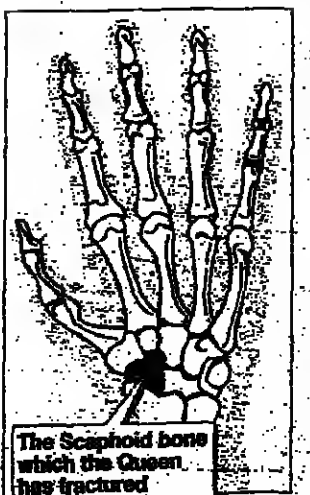
"Had I been sober, it would not have happened," Miss Taylor-Firth replied. "It's not very nice, no."

The trial continues.

## Queen breaks wrist in fall



The Queen out riding, and the bone she broke.



The Scaphoid bone which the Queen has fractured

Continued from page 1 suffer chronic arthritis for years if it fails to heal properly.

The injury could have been much worse, since the Queen, who never wears a hard hat, was protected only by a hooded mackintosh. Riding school proprietors criticised her for defying safety advice.

The Queen returned to the stables unconcerned, and the break was not diagnosed for 24 hours. On Saturday afternoon she joined a pleasant shoot with the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward and the Duke of Westminster.

At first it was thought she had merely suffered a bruise. After church on Sunday, however, the Queen was driven to Sandringham Hospital in King's Lynn, seven miles from the royal estate, where she was given an x-ray and put in plaster.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that the Queen "is quite well. It is not a serious break, it is just inconvenient."

Kate Denham, a director of the hospital, said: "I think Her Majesty thought it was just a bruise. She was at the hospital for about an hour. She seemed cheerful."

The Queen is on her annual extended New Year break at Sandringham and is due to return to London early next month. She works on boxes of government documents each day, but there are no official engagements until February 1, when she will visit RAF Marham in Norfolk. She will also pay a semi-private visit to

the Women's Institute at West Newton near by, where she and the Queen Mother are long-standing members.

There was little due to the Queen's discomfort at her regular church appearance. As usual, she stopped to accept flowers from children and well-wishers, gathering bunches in one arm as she took them with the other.

The royal family, who are enthusiastic riders, have had a number of accidents. Each year there are 18 deaths from riding accidents in Britain, and some 29,000 injuries. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents urges all riders to wear headgear. "We are sorry to hear about the accident," Janice Cave, of Roopa, said. "It just goes to show that even the most experienced rider can have an accident. No matter how experienced the rider, they should always wear a helmet."

James Tye, director general of the British Safety Council, also criticised the Queen. "It is irresponsible and dangerous to wear only a scarf when riding. The Queen sets a bad example," he said.

The Queen's last reported fall from a horse was at Sandringham in 1945, when she bruised both legs. The Princess Royal, once one of Europe's leading horsewomen, has had a series of falls, and the Prince of Wales broke his arm in two places in the summer of 1990 playing polo and later had knee surgery.

Diary page 18

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## Operation Begonia nets record haul

Customs team seizes  
£50m cocaine cargo

By Stewart Tandler and Ronald Faux

CUSTOMS and police investigators yesterday seized 250kg of cocaine worth £50 million which was hidden in a consignment of fresh flowers.

In a classic "sting" operation, undercover officers are understood to have posed as British buyers for the drug and travelled to Colombia. The Colombians also sent negotiators to meet them in Britain. According to one report, Greater Manchester police borrowed £2 million to show the Colombians that the undercover men were acting in good faith.

The cocaine arrived from Amsterdam last week and is the largest single importation of the drug by air. Its seizure at Manchester airport marked the end of a four-month customs operation codenamed Begonia.

The haul was found in six boxes among a cargo of flowers. Neither the exporter nor the importer of the flowers knew what they concealed.

Once the consignment landed, armed police and customs officers moved in to a warehouse and arrested two Colombians.

A national intelligence drive is currently monitoring possible Colombian drug infiltration. The national criminal intelligence service in London has established a database of suspicious sightings in Britain with the help of local police forces, immigration officials and customs officials.

Pat Cadogan, an assistant chief investigator, said yesterday: "We have broken an attempt by a major cocaine importer to set up a distribution network in the North West of England. We must have destroyed their credibility in the UK and a seizure of this kind must be a major setback for them."

The drugs came originally from traffickers based in Cali, which has replaced Medellín as the powerbase of the Colombian cartels. Customs in-

vestigators say the consignment was intended to be the first shipment on a regular new route.

Manchester is a key market for illegal drugs in Britain. Police and customs officers have been warning for some time that the Colombian gangs are testing western Europe in search of new markets because the United States has become saturated with cheap cocaine.

Last night, the two arrested men were being questioned by police and customs officers.

West Country police are hunting for the source of a batch of tainted heroin sold on the streets of Bristol which killed two men and injured another four.

Paul Hicks, 30, died on 27 December and Reginald Phillips, 40, collapsed last Thursday. Both suffered agonising convulsions and died within minutes of injecting the drug. Last weekend, four more drug users were rushed to hospital.



Frankie Vaughan, the singer, and Wendy Richard, the actress, at the launch in London yesterday of the Variety Club's Gold Heart Day set for February 14 in aid of underprivileged and handicapped children. The brooches cost a minimum £1 donation. Last year's appeal raised over £3 million.

Air disaster  
inquest told  
of cover-up  
in Nepal

By Tony Dawe

THE official report into an air crash in the Himalayas which killed 167 people, 35 of them Britons, is being kept secret, an inquest in London was told yesterday.

Gordon Matthews, a government investigator who led the enquiry into the disaster in Nepal, said that the Nepalese government had forbidden the release of the official report he helped to prepare.

The inquest into the deaths of 15 Britons whose bodies were returned home was told, however, that the Pakistan International Airlines Airbus was on course but more than 1,500ft too low when it crashed into a mountainside on approach to Kathmandu airport, killing all on board instantaneously.

After the hearing was adjourned yesterday, Helga Radvis, whose son Victor, 27, died in the crash, demanded the publication of the report.

The inquest was told that a series of blunders by the Nepalese authorities and the injuries suffered in the tragedy led to the first-ever use of genetic fingerprinting on British crash victims in an effort to identify them.

Ian Hill, a pathologist who has attended many disasters, said that DNA testing had identified four Britons. John Burton, the Hammersmith coroner, was told that some bodies of British victims were never identified and others were buried in Nepal.

As a result of the tests, Michael Hardwick, 33, a climbing instructor from the National Mountaineering Centre in Snowdonia; Deborah Leon, 32, from Newcastle upon Tyne; John Carswell, 22, who had just graduated from Edinburgh University; and Darius Bejon, 34, from Windlesham, Surrey, were identified in January last year, four months after the crash.

Boy's killer  
'wrote sex  
and death  
fantasies'

By Lin Jenkins

A MAN who abducted, sexually assaulted and strangled a seven-year-old boy wrote about sexual fantasies which ended in the deaths of children, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Colin Hatch, 21, killed Sean Williams in a manner almost exactly the same as one of the accounts in "those dreadful writings", John Bevan, for the prosecution, said.

Hatch admits the manslaughter of Sean on grounds of diminished responsibility but denies murdering him, at Hatch's home in Finchley, north London, on July 19 last year. Mr Bevan said that it would be for the jurors to decide about Hatch's mental responsibility.

Sean's parents, who were separated, ran The George pub in East Finchley. Sean was last seen cycling near by. "Within 20 minutes, 25 minutes at the outside, he was dead," Mr Bevan said.

"There was so little time before his body was found, no time for conversation, no time for a chat, no time for trying to seduce the boy into doing what Hatch wanted."

"Hatch must have grabbed the boy, taken him up in the lift to the tenth floor into his flat, into his bedroom, stripped him, sexually assaulted him, strangled him, put him into two bin-liners, taped them together and put him back into the lift."

Mr Bevan said that Hatch abandoned the body when a woman got into the lift. A postman later found it.

He said that among writings found in Hatch's flat was an account of sexual assault with a boy of 10 which ends in his strangulation. Another story told of sex with a young girl, her face covered in tears, who is choked and put into a bin-liner.

The trial continues.

Rover and Jaguar  
buck the markets

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

ROVER and Jaguar were the only big car manufacturers in Europe to increase sales last year as their main competitors saw registrations fall by more than 2 million, worth about £1.9 billion.

The good news came as Rover announced that it had been forced to recall 51,000 of its top-of-the-range 800 executive models, including 32,000 in Britain.

The company said it wanted to check seat belts that might not be secured correctly. However, only three cases have been found among the cars made between October 1991 and November 1993.

That was almost the only cloud for Rover after a year in which its production outstripped the once mighty Mercedes-Benz and came close to beating BMW. Rover achieved an increase in sales of almost 9 per cent against a market that shrank by over 15 per

cent. Sales of Rovers in 17 Western European markets were 361,000 compared with 354,000 for Mercedes, which saw registrations fall back 13.5 per cent. BMW, the German company on which Rover is often said to be modelled, also suffered a drop in sales of 16.4 per cent to 370,000.

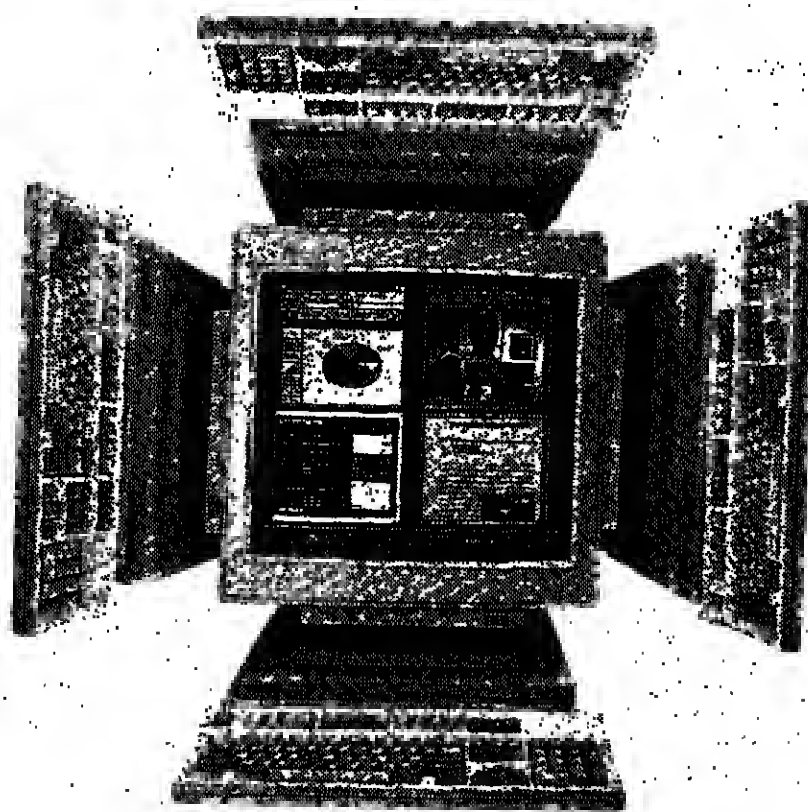
Jaguar sales were ahead 1.2 per cent to 11,000, a signal that the company could be over the worst of heavy financial losses and heading for a more optimistic future with a new sports car planned for launch later this year.

Although sales of new cars in the UK were up 11.6 per cent last year, they slumped in 15 of the 17 main industrialised markets. Sales in Germany, Europe's biggest car market, fell 18.8 per cent, in France by 18.3 per cent, in Italy 20.4 per cent and in Spain 24.1 per cent.

Total registrations fell 15.2 per cent to 11,449,000.

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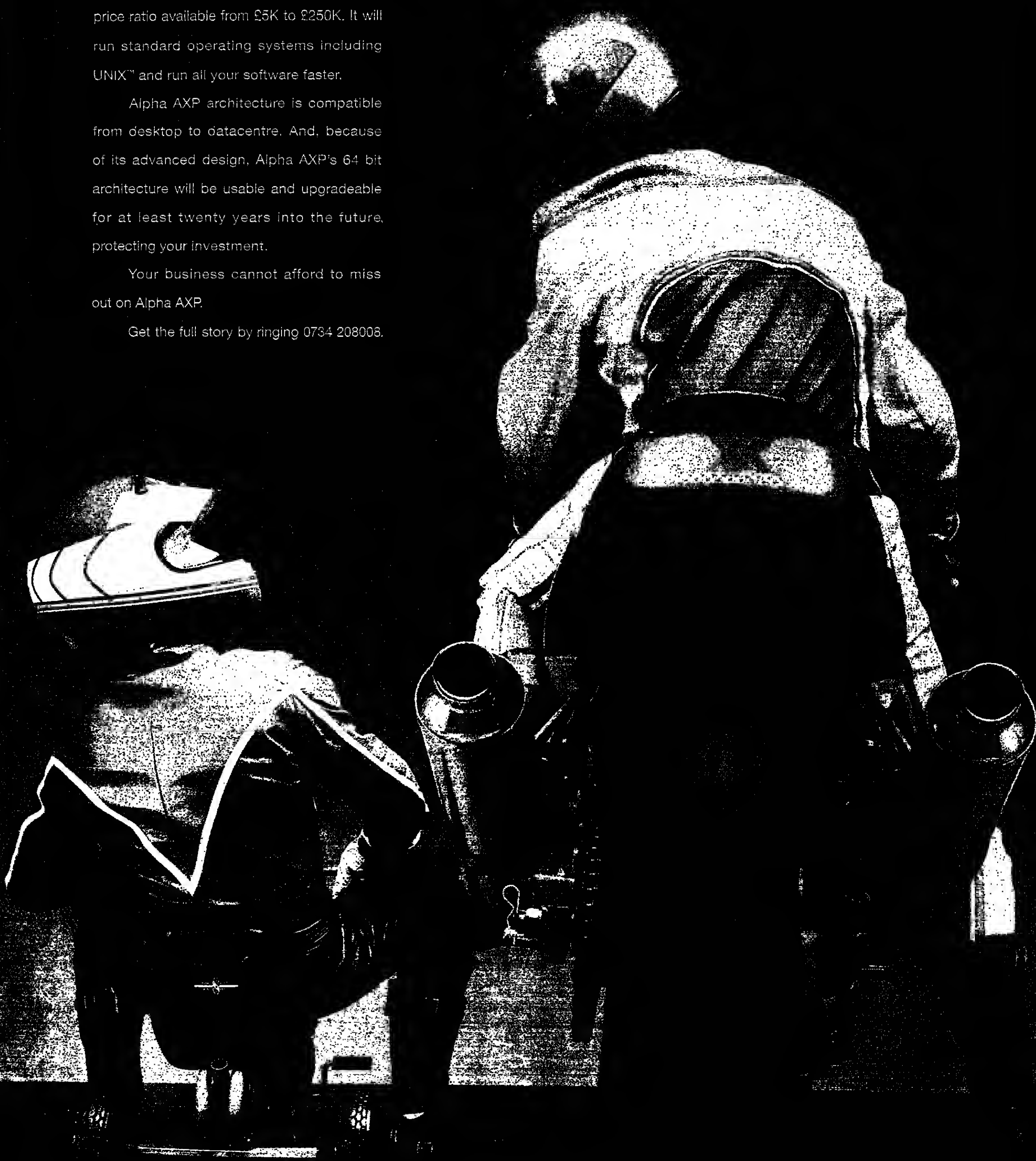
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## Elementary lessons in logic for enquiry's bemused counsel

"It is not for me to reach the conclusion I've invited the enquiry to reach," John Major told Lord Justice Scott with a certain smug logic yesterday. When pressed on whether Britain had changed its policy on arms sales to Iraq, he clearly took the view that you don't buy a dog and then do the barking yourself.

When it came to explaining his own part in the confusing mess, Mr Major jack-knifed from Cartesian logic into Lewis Carroll logic, pointing out that a) he knew nothing about any change in export guidelines on arms sales to Baghdad; b) he didn't know he knew nothing, since he didn't

know there was anything to know; and c) he is not sure there was anything to know. Got it?

When Mr Major became Foreign Secretary, in 1989, he was never formally briefed by officials on the guidelines which covered exports to Iraq and Iran.

"Neither at that stage nor later was I involved in the formulation of the guidelines, considering the guidelines or the interpretation of the guidelines," he said. So, even if they had been altered, the Prime Minister's hands were clean.

But wait — Mr Major was not sure that they had been changed, only that they had been interpreted

with legitimate flexibility. Or, in his own crystal words: "Something which I was not sure had happened, suddenly turned out not to have happened." Still with us?

The inquisitors took all this calmly, perhaps cowed by being the first to question a serving Prime Minister at a judicial enquiry. The closest they came to betraying exasperation was when Mr Major said: "I think I just responded to that point."

Presley Baxendale, the enquiry's QC, just stammered meekly:

"But did you say yes or no, I'm not sure?"

Mr Major's relaxed mood vindicated those pundits who had predicted that he would have nothing to fear from Lord Justice Scott, since it was the Prime Minister himself who appointed the judge to head the enquiry. Then again, as logicians might point out, it was Mr Major who appointed Tim Yeo as an environment minister.

But where was the bullying about back-to-basics? Family values? About bed-sharing in French

hotels? The Westminster political press corps that swelled the enquiry's audience had arrived early yesterday, convinced they were following the eye of a storm, and confident of seeing Mr Major lashed again.

So they were perplexed to find that, in the genteel rooms where the enquiry has been going about its business for months, all was calm. "Hey," you could see them thinking, "this Baxendale woman is not the wily wolf she's cracked up to be. We lost the PM tougher questions than she does. Let us at him!"

As the afternoon wore on, and the prospect of any embarrass-

ment wore off, Mr Major gave full reign to the smirk that plays about his lips when he is being interviewed, a smirk that is meant convey "I know your mischievous intent, but I don't get caught that easily, and I have a witty reply already prepared."

Since Miss Baxendale is also an inveterate smoker, the cross-examination began to look less like an inquisition and more like a television set, with the hero and heroine grinning at each other, perhaps just about to break into a Dennis Potter-style duet of *We Can Work It Out* or *Let's Call The Whole Thing Off*.

But perhaps the plot was by

someone more drilled in the ways of politics, maybe Michael Dobbs, author of *To Play The King*, by the time the Prime Minister and his private secretary bid the enquiry farewell. Mr Major looked so pleased with himself that he is probably planning another visit to a calming judicial enquiry the next time he needs to escape the hot glare of television camera lights.

You might very well think that Mr Major got off pretty well Scott-free. But, of course, the Prime Minister could not possibly comment.

Peter Brookes, page 18

'I think it is true that answering parliamentary questions is an art form'

## Relaxed Major tells Scott 'I was never involved'

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday absolved himself from any responsibility for the arms-to-Iraq affair by denying all knowledge of a covert decision to relax the Government's 1985 arms export guidelines.

At no stage during his time as Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer or Prime Minister was he involved in the "consideration, amendment or interpretation" of the arms export guidelines, Mr Major told Lord Justice Scott's enquiry.

Looking relaxed and confident during the protracted cross-examination, Mr Major said he was not convinced that there had been a change in the guidelines, even though it was clear that three junior ministers had contemplated such a change in December 1988.

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by Alex Allen, his principal private secretary, told Lord Justice Scott that he had not been specifically briefed by officials about the operation of the guidelines until the collapse of the Matrix Churchill trial at the Old Bailey in November 1992.

There was "frenetic atmosphere" in Government circles at the time because of speculation about whether the guidelines had been relaxed, and whether that relaxation amounted to a change of policy which ministers could be accused of keeping secret from Parliament. "Different people had different views," Mr Major said.

Always economical with his words, Mr Major declined to pass judgment on the meeting in December 1988 between William Waldegrave, then a Foreign Office minister, Alan Clark, a trade minister, and Lord Trevelyan, a defence minister, over whether their decision to relax the guidelines was implemented.

He said: "I am very reluctant to make a judgment with hindsight about what might have been in the minds of ministers some years earlier." Pressed by Lord Justice Scott, he added: "I am saying that in the absence of having been part of these judgments I do not think it is for me to draw a conclusion."

"My opinion, post hoc, is of no more value than anyone else's opinion. I was not involved at the time, and I cannot retrospectively know what was in ministers' minds." That was a something for the enquiry to decide, he said. It was this meeting between the three ministers after the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq in August 1988 that provoked accusations of a covert decision to relax the guidelines.

Asked about a proposal to sell Hawk trainer aircraft to

Iraq in 1989, Mr Major, who at that time was Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said he was against the deal on financial and moral grounds. There was a "flecting reference" to the guidelines in a briefing from officials but it did not spell out what the guidelines were or whether they had been changed, he said.

The decision not to sell the aircraft was taken on his first day as Foreign Secretary during an "extremely brief" Cabinet

**'I am very reluctant to judge with hindsight what was in the minds of ministers'**

net meeting. Every minister was concerned that the aircraft could be used to drop chemical weapons on the Kurds, Mr Major said. "I did not think it was a very good deal financially, and I did not think it was a very good deal morally, either."

The cross-examination yesterday had none of the conflict that characterised the evidence given by Baroness Thatcher in December. But Mr Major began to show his irritation when Presley Baxendale QC, counsel to the enquiry, returned to the meeting of junior ministers in

December 1988. "We have been dancing around this point for some time," he said. "I did not know then and I do not know now what is implied by the documentation to which you have drawn my attention."

He said the guidelines had always been intended to contain a little flexibility. "If you have guidelines on such a complex matter either there is a modicum of flexibility or they are utterly rigid and inflexible and you would need telephone books after telephone books of examples."

Responding to a series of questions about whether parliamentary answers should be honest and truthful, Mr Major said: "The British Civil Service is a pretty rigid instrument in terms of determining that answers are honest and truthful. In my experience, if a minister attempted to change an answer in a way that was misleading, the Civil Service would object."

He added, however, that there was a tradition of providing answers that did not necessarily give a lot of background detail. Moreover, MPs sometimes sought to embarrass ministers.

"That is a perfectly proper part of parliamentary procedure. But answers still have to be honest and truthful. Of course they do. If a wrong answer were inadvertently given by a minister, a correction would be given to Hansard."

Mr Major accepted that



John Major giving evidence before Lord Justice Scott, Presley Baxendale and Christopher Mutikuru at the arms enquiry yesterday

answering parliamentary questions was something of an art form. But he insisted that they were never intended to mislead or to avoid "political embarrassment". The necessity for telling the truth and the style in which they were answered were not mutually exclusive.

"I think it is true that answering parliamentary questions is an art form, but that should not be taken as meaning that the art form should obscure the truth. I don't believe that is the case," he said.

He denied having seen a series of Cabinet documents discussing defence sales to Iraq, which included references to the Customs investigation into allegations that Matrix Churchill had exported sophisticated machine tools to Iraq days before President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. He did not see them because he had not attended the meeting.

Mr Major, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time, said: "The reality is that if every piece of paper that came into that office was seen by the minister concerned they would do nothing but read. There had to be a filtering process."

Describing the confusion in Government circles after the collapse of the Matrix Churchill trial, Mr Major said that Whitehall was gripped by a "frenetic atmosphere". During the weekend after the three Matrix Churchill defendants were acquitted, in the face of an avalanche of questions from MPs and the media, he had ordered a "massive trawl of files," in an attempt to establish what had happened to the guidelines following the meeting of the three junior ministers.

"One of the charges at the time was that in some way, because I had been Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister, I must have known what was going on in the underground. That was why I was asking for the documentation to be checked."

The trawl showed that at no stage had he been advised that the guidelines had been changed, or that they had been breached by ministers. The House had not been misled, he added.

However, research undertaken by Pauline Neville-Jones, a Cabinet Office official, suggested there was

**'If a minister changed an answer to mislead, the Civil Service would object'**

some evidence that the guidelines had been relaxed in practice, even though they had not been formally altered. The picture painted by Mr Major was one of confusion at the heart of the Government machine.

What Ms Neville-Jones had described as a "relaxation of interpretation" was characterised by another official as "a pretty dreadful distinction", which Government critics would insist was a cynical way of disguising the fact that the arms export guidelines had been altered, allowing more equipment to be exported.

"Conspiracy theorists may assume that 'flexibility of interpretation' means 'never

mind about the guidelines — we can get round them any way we want." But this was not the case, the prime minister said.

Asked by Lord Justice Scott whether he thought there had in fact been a change in the guidelines, Mr Major said that was a question for the enquiry to decide.

Mr Major told the enquiry that an estimated 40,000 intelligence reports flowed into the Foreign Office every year. Roughly two-thirds came from GCHQ, the Government's eavesdropping centre at Cheltenham, and the rest from the Secret Intelligence Service. All intelligence was "filtered" by officials, and only information that was "relevant, validated and reliable" was put before ministers, he said.

Robin Cook, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, who was first in the queue for a place in the public enquiry at 7am yesterday, said after hearing the Prime Minister's testimony: "John Major's defence is both clear and discreditable."

"His alibi is that he did not know what was going on in the departments for which he was responsible. The departments through which he passed were stuffed with documents which he saw but did not read to the end or which he read but did not act on."

John Major did admit that the change to the guidelines on arms to Iraq was pointed out to him only two days after he had told John Smith in the Commons that they had not been changed. He should have put the record straight in Parliament the next week. If the Government had owned up then they would have spared themselves a year of embarrassment as the truth was unearthed by the enquiry.

## Britons to appear in German guns trial

FROM ROGER BOYES IN ROTTWEIL, SOUTHERN GERMANY

EXECUTIVES from the Royal Ordnance armaments company in Enfield are likely to be summoned as witnesses in a sensitive German case involving the export of machineguns to the Middle East.

The witnesses are needed to bolster the defence of Walter Lamp, the former export chief of Heckler and Koch, the small-arms manufacturer, who is charged with authorising illegal sales to the United Arab Emirates. Defence lawyers say that the guns were British-made Royal Ordnance licensed in the 1980s to produce Heckler and Koch weapons — and were sold to the Middle East by a British subsidiary of Heckler and Koch. The deal, clinched in 1986, was therefore subject to British law.

The case comes at a time of strong pressure to liberalise Germany's arms trade and reveals the inner workings of

the secretive weapons business. The effect has been to heat up the atmosphere in the courtroom here.

The prosecutor wants to demonstrate that Heckler and Koch tried to dodge arms control laws using its British subsidiary. His strategy is to show that the German company supplied components to Royal Ordnance, which in turn commissioned Heckler and Koch's British subsidiary to ship the guns to the Emirates. According to the Italians, who impounded the shipment in 1987, the guns were probably destined for Iraq.

The case hinges on detail. Did the German headquarters dictate marketing strategy? It is complicated by the changing structure of the British arms industry. In 1987 Royal Ordnance was sold to British Aerospace, and in 1991 the company bought Heckler and Koch.

## Islamic Art is full of promise at Bonhams.

Bonhams are holding an important sale of Islamic Art on Wednesday April 27 which will include miniatures, carpets, metalwork and ceramics.

A 16th century Iznik dish, similar to this, could well fetch up to £10,000.

Further entries are still being accepted for the sale, and encouragingly the Buyer's Premium at Bonhams remains at only 10%.

For a free auction valuation, call Diddi Malek on 071 584 9161 or send her a description with photo to: Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 1HH.

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BONHAMS

## Prime Minister's account brings innovation, not information

John Major's appearance yesterday before the Scott enquiry will be remembered more as a constitutional innovation than for its insights into the Iraqi arms affair.

Labour spokesmen will attempt to keep the issue in the public eye in the Commons by arguing that Mr Major either misled Parliament or that he was not in control. But Mr Major was only at the margins of the main decisions. Perhaps he should have known more, but a lot else was happening.

More significant than what he said was that he was there at all. Prime Ministers usually only give evidence to committees or in private — as

Harold Macmillan did to Lord Denning's enquiry into the Profumo affair, and as Baroness Thatcher did to the Barons' enquiry into the invasion of the Falklands. Their precise views never become known.

The rare exceptions have been when Prime Ministers have appeared before select committees set up by the House of Commons itself. Past Prime Ministers have given evidence to committees on privilege and procedure, usually in private, and during the 1930s to the enquiry into the government of India.

However, Lady Thatcher avoided giving evidence to the

enquiry by the defence select committee in 1986 into the Westland affair, even though she was involved in the key decisions. Sir Robert, now Lord Armstrong, her Cabinet Secretary, was her main defender in front of the committee. This was a controversial reversal of the usual doctrine of ministerial accountability by which civil servants' actions are normally explained by politicians, rather than vice versa.

But Mr Major has gone on the record. Not only did he have to spend several hours yesterday answering detailed questions from Lord Justice Scott and Presley Baxendale,

his counsel, but he had to devote much time beforehand to reading papers which he had probably long forgotten, if indeed he had ever more than skimmed them in the past.

It was a chore, rather than a challenge. The focus was mainly on what he knew when he was Foreign Secretary and Chancellor rather than since he became Prime Minister; apart from the answers to some letters and parliamentary questions.

British Prime Ministers are more exposed than most of their opposite numbers. Unlike other heads of government, they are also members of the legislature and have to appear before it.

President Clinton may regard himself as being at the mercy of the pack instincts of the White House press corps and the network news programmes, but he himself only goes before Congress to give set-piece addresses. President Nixon would only have appeared if he had faced formal impeachment, rather than resigning in August 1974. President Reagan never gave public evidence to the various enquiries into the Iran-contra affair. Congressional committees have to be satisfied with questioning administration officials.

In France, President Mitterrand is even more aloof from detailed questioning, either from the legislature or the public.

PETER RIDDELL







## Fundholding GPs share £1m intended for hospital care

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

FOUR doctors' practices will share up to £1 million as a result of making big savings on their budgets, while the local health authorities are predicting a financial deficit of more than £1 million.

The practices, which control their own budgets under the GP fundholding scheme, have achieved savings of up to £200,000 each with three months of the financial year still to run. Most of the money was allocated for spending in local hospitals, which have lost out as a result.

The practices are among more than 1,000 nationwide that hold their own budgets under the GP fundholding scheme. Most have made savings. Health authorities have criticised the scheme for "feather-bedding" GP fundholders, who can benefit personally from the savings.

While the authorities have had to halt treatment of patients to save money. One health authority manager said: "You can't plan services when a group of GPs have walked off with £1 million."

Under the fundholding scheme, general practices are allocated a budget for drugs, staff and hospital care for their patients and can keep any savings they make.

They are free to spend the savings in any way they choose provided it is for the benefit of patients. Some have built extensions to their surgeries, which they own, increasing their capital value.

The four practices, in Greenwich and Bexley, had underspent their budgets by between 13 and 19 per cent at December 31, equivalent to £786,000, according to a report for South East Thames Re-

gional Health Authority. Three other practices in Kent and Lambeth had also underspent by more than 10 per cent. The Department of Health says that savings of 3 to 5 per cent are acceptable but above that range questions need to be asked.

Greenwich Health Authority, which pays for hospital care provided by non-fundholding GPs, is forecasting a £1 million overspend by the end of the financial year. Neighbouring Bexley has overspent by £631,000 so far. Some critics of the fundholding scheme have claimed that it is siphoning money from health authorities and non-fundholding GPs, increasing the financial pressure on them.

Peter Blessington, finance manager of Greenwich and Bexley Family Health Services Authority, said there were worries about the size of the budgets allocated to fundholders in the area, which are based on practices' past workload. The authority is moving to a system of capitation funding which will reduce the overall fundholding budget by £1.5 million, but the change-over will take five years.

"We are far and away the largest underspender in the region," Mr Blessington said. "We anticipate a final underspend of £1 million by the year-end. We will look at the way the savings were achieved. We want to be satisfied the practices took action to achieve them, such as by switching contracts between hospitals to take advantage of competition."

Mr Blessington said one practice had saved £350,000 by moving a contract to a different hospital. "It was no more inconvenient for patients and it gives you an idea of how savings can be built up."

## Father's gift revives children's zoo

By MICHAEL HORNSEY

WORK began yesterday on rebuilding the children's section of London Zoo, the first phase of a £21 million scheme to turn the 167-year-old institution into an international showpiece for the conservation of rare animals over the next ten years.

The £1 million needed for the new children's zoo was donated by Swraj Paul, founder of the Caparo Group, which makes steel products, in memory of his daughter Ambika, who died aged 5 of leukaemia 25 years ago.

"I came to Britain from Calcutta in the hope of finding better treatment for

my daughter," Dr Paul said. "In between visits to the hospital, I spent a lot of time with her at the zoo. I thought it would be a nice memorial to her if I could help save it."

The new children's section, which will be called the Ambika-Paul Children's Zoo, is due to open in mid-July.

London Zoo hopes to raise the £21 million needed for redevelopment with higher gate receipts, commercial sponsorship and individual donations. So far, the zoo has about £2.5 million.

Leading article, page 19

## Blinded PC will regain sight

By A STAFF REPORTER

DOCTORS treating a policeman blinded by two men who threw glue in his eyes and then hurled him into a canal in Hungerford, Berkshire, early on Sunday morning say his sight will not be permanently damaged.

Steve Thorne, 32, has now regained partial sight in his left eye after the attack, which happened when he tried to question two young men. His right eye is still tightly sealed by the powerful glue.

PC Thorne has had treatment from a specialist at Southampton General Hospital. Chief Insp John Reeve said

yesterday: "His eyes are still very sore and closed because of the swelling, but it appears that there is no permanent damage."

Geena Thorne, 31, told yesterday how her husband had worked to set up a rescue mission for 20 Bosnian refugees. She said he raised money and won permission to convert part of Hungerford's disused hospital into a new home for the war victims whom he then brought back to Britain.

"He was the brainchild behind the whole thing," said Mrs Thorne, of Andover,

Hampshire. "There was a lot of red tape he had to go through to get them out, but he arranged the whole thing and did it. Steve thought he had to do something."

Mrs Thorne said this was the second time her husband had been injured while on duty. In December 1992, he had to take time off work and was fitted with a neck brace after joyriders rammed his patrol car.

Detectives are still hunting for the two men who attacked PC Thorne. It is thought they may have been sniffing glue on the canal towpath.



George, Paul, Ringo and John in their 1964 heyday, when the brotherhood of the Beatles had the musical world at their feet

## Long and winding road leads to Beatles reunion

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE surviving Beatles have finally agreed to Let It Be and will Come Together to make music next month for the first time since the band broke up 24 years ago.

Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr will reunite in a studio to record new music for a video autobiography entitled *The Beatles Anthology*, according to this week's *New Yorker* magazine. The film

series, lasting 12 hours and made up of archive footage and tapes, photographs and interviews, will be broadcast worldwide next year.

The series will include unreleased tapes of the band from the vast collection of material recorded at Abbey Road studios, northwest London. Up to six new CDs of the group's music will be released, including unfinished and alternate versions of Beatles hits. George Martin, the band's veteran producer at EMI Records, told Mark

Hertsgaard of the *New Yorker* that the band did not want to release "everything they did, warts and all".

The three Beatles, with Yoko Ono, John Lennon's widow, must give their final approval before the series is aired. The break-up of the band in 1970, the murder of John Lennon in 1980 and lingering rifts and law suits have always made the possibility of another creative collaboration slim at best.

Mr Martin said the three Beatles will focus on recording new music

rather than re-recording existing songs. The archives explored by Hertsgaard reveal the way the band collaborated, a mixture of bizarre clowning and musical experimentation. "It was a brotherhood," Mr Martin said. "They had an empathy and a kind of mind-reading business, and almost kinetic energy." When the Beatles get together again next month at an undisclosed location, the musical world will discover whether that energy and brotherhood have survived the passage of time.

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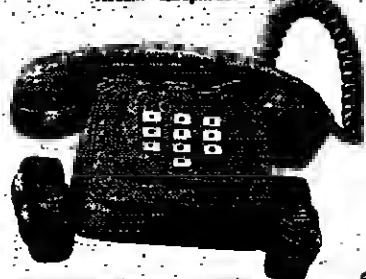
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Professional criminals smuggle animals into tower block for fight to the death

## Badger-baiting ring gambles thousands on barbaric battle

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BADGER-BAITING contests drawing thousands of pounds in bets are being staged by professional criminals in the heart of London, according to Scotland Yard.

Andy Fisher, co-ordinator of the Yard's network of wildlife protection officers, said police knew of one contest held in the sitting room of a high-rise flat in northeast London. Others have taken place in cellars.

An organised system exists to bring the animals into London, where gamblers bet on the result of a fight between the badgers and dogs such as pitbull terriers.

Mr Fisher, who is part of the Yard's civilian staff, said he believed badger baiting could become more popular than dog fighting, as organisers find recent dog legislation makes the rearing of fighting breeds more difficult. Figures from the RSPCA show that the number of prosecutions for badger baiting rose from 16 in 1991 to 49 in 1992.

Although London might seem an unlikely place to find badgers or badger baiting, Mr Fisher estimates that there are at least 5,000 badgers seen in the area covered by the Metro-

politan police, with a population of up to 40,000 animals.

The badgers have to be protected from raids by thieves, who can earn four-figure sums for delivering animals to baiting organisers. Mr Fisher said a man out walking recently on the outskirts of London was threatened with a sawn-off shotgun by two men who were digging

**6 The contests end with the badgers being killed. And so, sometimes, are the dogs?**

at a badger set. The high rewards encourage such strongarm tactics.

Police have reports of one contest just outside the Yard's police area that carried a cash bet of £30,000. The contests are particularly cruel because badgers are injured by breaking a limb or wounding them with a shotgun to make the contest with the dogs more equal. The badgers are killed

afterwards and so, sometimes, are the dogs.

Wildlife crimes are not normally recorded by the police for Home Office records, but Mr Fisher and five wildlife liaison officers working in the London police area have now begun to log such crimes.

In the United States, wildlife crime, including the importation or sale of protected creatures and parts of endangered animals sold for medicine, is now considered the second biggest illegal market after drugs.

The crimes faced in London by the part-time wildlife liaison officers range from the sale of leather of protected crocodiles to collections of eggs. In one case in west London, a drug addict was caught taking kestrel chicks from the wild, intending to sell them to buy drugs. In another case in east London, a man was fined £325 for trapping wild birds.

Constable Malcolm Peak, the wildlife liaison officer covering northeast London, has recently investigated rhino horn supplies and rescued a fledgling tawny owl that had fallen from a tree. He reckons



PC Malcolm Peak, wildlife liaison officer for northeast London, with a rescued owl at Enfield police station

he deals with 50 or more wildlife cases every year. Within a few months, he will be on the alert for bird trappers out to snare wild birds in the breeding season.

Then there are the deer poachers out to pluck an animal from the herds of near domesticated small deer found on the edges of north London, and illegal hare-coursing. PC

Peak, who like the other officers is a wildlife enthusiast in his spare time, said: "While it is right that this work is not the highest priority when muggings, vehicle theft and

burglaries affect individuals, nevertheless wildlife crime threatens the existence of species and can have an appreciable effect on the quality of life for generations to come."

## Wife jailed for hiring attack gang

A woman was jailed for two years yesterday for paying three men £30 to beat up her husband, whom she suspected of being unfaithful. Jacqueline Morgan, 24, waited until he was in the bath before admitting the men to the couple's house at Newport, Gwent.

Andrew Morgan, 26, was attacked with a baseball bat and crowbar. He needed five metal plates in his head and eight months after the attack still suffers double vision.

His wife was found guilty at Cardiff Crown Court of causing grievous bodily harm with intent. Celwyn Breen, 24, of Newport, a friend, was jailed for seven years, and two other men were each given four years, for inflicting grievous bodily harm.

## Coach crash

A 17-year-old driver is seriously ill after his truck was in a head-on collision with a school bus at Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire. Four girls needed hospital treatment and 15 children escaped unhurt.

## Judge fined

A deputy circuit judge, Robert Charles Smith, of Glosport, North Yorkshire, was fined £900 and banned from driving for a year by Wharfedale magistrates for drink-driving.

## Sleepyhead

A boy aged nine caused a police hunt when he fell asleep for 18 hours in the spare bedroom of his home at Weston-super-Mare, Avon, after going roller-skating.

## Hang-glide fall

Dr Ian Fairbrother, 32, of Harrogate, died after falling 400ft when his hang-glider buckled over Wether Fell near Hawes, North Yorkshire.

## Poetry winner

An architect, Sam Gardiner, 57, of Grimsby, won the £3,000 National Poetry Competition with a poem called *Protestant Windows*.

## Sawing death

Bryan Oakhill, 41, died after falling onto a circular saw while cutting logs outside his cottage at Coaley, Gloucestershire.

## Sellafield takes first cargo of spent fuel

BY OUR TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AN IMPORTANT step towards the recycling of spent nuclear fuel from Britain, Japan, Germany and other overseas customers was taken in the early hours of yesterday with the commissioning of the Thorp operation at Sellafield, Cumbria.

Employees of British Nuclear Fuels began filling a channel with 600,000 litres of demineralised water, linking spent fuel storage ponds with ones that feed the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant. "The company said that the first consignment of spent fuel, a three-tonne cask, from the advanced gas cooled reactors of Heysham and Hinkley Point power stations, would be moved on a special underwater machine at the end of the week. Reprocessing would begin after checks on the moving equipment.

Greenpeace and Lancashire County Council last week secured the right to a judicial review of the Government's decision to approve Thorp's operation. It will take place early next month — probably before the first fuel rods are reprocessed.

John Guinness, chairman of British Nuclear Fuels, said yesterday: "Today is a watershed. It means at last that Thorp is finally opening. This is good news not only for our company and our workforce, who have worked tirelessly for this day over the last 16 years, but also for our customers who have supported the plant." He said he was confident that the company would secure a successful result in the judicial review.

## Drain saves voles from watery grave

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

CANAL engineers are going to unusual lengths to prevent water voles, the real-life models for the indomitably cheerful Ratty of *The Wind in the Willows*, from being extirpated in the banks where they dig their burrows.

British Waterways, which owns and runs 2,000 miles of canals and navigable rivers, plans to install hundreds of escape tunnels for voles along an 11-mile stretch of the Oxford Canal near Banbury as part of a £750,000 dredging and bank repair scheme.

The off-side bank (the one opposite the tow path) has become badly eroded. Over the next few weeks, 37,000 cubic yards of silt will be dredged from the bed of the 200-year-old waterway and used to rebuild the bank behind a new protective wall of plastic webbing.

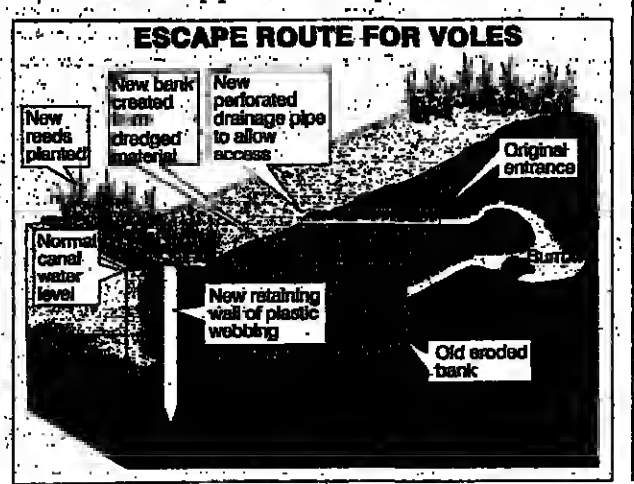
Jonathan Briggs, the conservation officer for British Waterways, said: "The tunnels, which are made of plastic pipes, will prevent the voles from being trapped in their burrows by the infilling of the bank. The pipes will

run from the old burrow exits to the new edge of the canal."

The water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) is endangered, unlike the brown rat with which it is often confused. A survey conducted by the Vincent Wildlife Trust during 1989-90 and published last April found that water voles still occupied only a third of 1,044 sites they were known to have inhabited in 1900.

Conservationists think the chief culprit is the American mink, which was introduced to farms in Britain in the 1920s, escaped into the wild during the 1930s and has since spread to many parts of the country. When in danger the vole dives, making a distinctive "plop", but this tactic is of no avail against the mink, which pursues its prey into the water.

Mink are not solely to blame. The vole's decline has been hastened by the destruction and relentless tidying of riverbanks, which have lost much of their attraction for wildlife since Kenneth Grahame's riverbank tales were first published in 1908.



## Songbird trade puts species in danger

BY A STAFF REPORTER

UP TO 600 species of South-East Asian songbirds are under severe threat from trappers and poachers supplying local and international cage bird markets, including Britain.

In what is claimed to be the first report on the wild songbird trade in the region, investigators with Traffic International claim to have unearthed a trade that is far bigger than previously thought.

Surveys of over 800 shops and market stalls in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, Burma and the Philippines, have discovered species that have never been seen in the bird trade. Stephen Nash, of Traffic, an agency jointly funded by the World Wide Fund for Nature and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, said yesterday: "The list is really growing... this is trade in species where very little is known about their position in the wild."

More than a hundred species identified are listed as trade-restricted under international conventions but most species discovered have no legal protection, including many imported into Britain. Conservationists fear that given the scale of the trapping and trade, estimated in the report at between two and five million birds a year, even quite plentiful species face devastation. Several species are now extinct.

Mr Nash, who wrote the report, called yesterday for wide-ranging action to balance the economic and aesthetic interests of traders with conservation.

## Girls join world of work for a day

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of schoolgirls aged 11 to 15 will join their parents in Britain's boardrooms, offices and shop floors this spring to learn about career opportunities for women.

A number of leading employers, including the BBC, Sainsbury's, The Body Shop and London Underground have already agreed to participate in Take Our Daughters To Work Day on April 28.

The scheme has been imported into Britain from America by the Ms Foundation for Women, an organisation dedicated to the advancement of women and girls. It is being co-ordinated by a private business consultancy, the Office for Public Management, backed by a task force that includes representatives from the Industrial Society and Opportunity 2000, the business-led initiative to improve the position of women at work.

John Birt, director-general

of the BBC, said: "Inviting girls into the workplace to see what goes on before they make vital educational choices is bold and enormously imaginative and the BBC is not going to be left behind."

Diana Skeete, a spokeswoman for the Office for Public Management, said the scheme was designed to correct some of the gender imbalances that exist at school: "Boys receive more attention from their teachers, they tend to dominate classrooms and put themselves forward more than girls," she said.

Boys will not be left out of the picture on April 28. While the girls are out at work, schools are being encouraged to devote the day to discussing workplace stereotypes and attitudes towards women.

They will be asked to consider why women make up more than 49 per cent of the workforce yet occupy only 8 per cent of senior executive positions.

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Fide candidates

THE following game was the first round of the knock-out stage of the Fide Candidates tournament being held in The Netherlands. Black sacrifices his queen on move 24. The sacrifice cannot be accepted, as after 25 fxc3 Ng3+ 26 fxc3 Rh5 is checkmate.

Yudasin v Kramnik

Fide Candidates, Game 1

Wijk aan Zee, January 1994

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	g6
6	Nxb5	Qb6
7	Nc3	Nc5
8	g3	Ne7
9	g4	N5
10	c3	g6
11	Be2	Bg7
12	0-0	0-0
13	Qb3	Re8

### First results

The first round results were: Timman (Holland) v Ljunger (France) draw; Van der Sterren (Holland) v Kamsky (US) 0-1; Khalifman (Russia) v Salov (Russia) 0-1; Anand (India) v Yusupov (Germany) draw; Adams (England) v Gelfand (Belarus) draw; Kramnik (Russia) v Yudasin (Israel) 1-0.

Winning Move, page 44

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# Neighbours uneasy as China flexes economic muscle

When Peking failed last September in its bid to stage the 2000 Olympic Games, a Singapore taxi driver turned to his passenger and said: "I feel so disappointed, and I saw other people weeping."

Some politicians in South-East Asia, however, were pleased that the last Games of the millennium were awarded to Sydney. One of them, in Kuala Lumpur, observed that a Peking win might have spurred a fresh flow of investment into China by the 35 million overseas Chinese in Taiwan, Hong Kong and South-East Asia generally, and an outburst of chauvinism among them.

Overseas Chinese, who rushed to China with cash when the West and Japan lost interest after the bloody suppression of the pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square in 1989, already account for about 80 per cent of direct investment in China's growing free market economy.

Members of the diaspora — themselves refugees from communism — believe the Western press is "probably exaggerated" in its "When there's an issue pitting China against the rest of the world, overseas Chinese will

*In the week that Chris Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, visits London for consultations, James Pringle looks at the growing influence of Peking in South-East Asia*

take China's side," a Bangkok-based diplomat said. "On such issues, blood will out. It's incredible, the pull."

China's relations with countries in South-East Asia, once tributary states, have always been complicated, often over the issue of overseas Chinese. Lately, however, they have been good as China concentrates on developing its domestic economy.

Yet there were anti-Chinese riots in Malaysia in the 1960s and mass killings of half a million alleged pro-Communists in Indonesia during a 1965 coup attempt, possibly backed by China. The total is believed to have included many thousands of Chinese.

Politicians and diplomats in South-East Asia worry that the possible future emergence of a more assertive China willing to flex its military muscle could have negative ramifications in the re-

gion and can envision more anti-Chinese flare-ups. This is why, they say, Lee Kuan Yew, the former Prime Minister of Singapore, recently warned overseas Chinese: "China's success can generate fears that it will dominate the region, especially if it is seen to be a competitor for investments rather than a partner in regional prosperity."

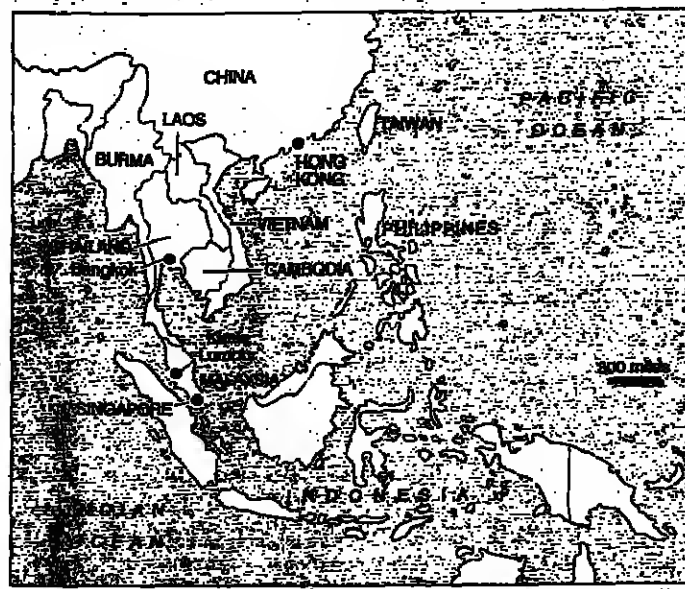
Speaking in Hong Kong to overseas Chinese entrepreneurs, he added: "We (overseas Chinese) must be honest and recognise that, at the end of the day, our fundamental loyalties are to our home country, not to China."

More than from divided loyalties, however, many problems stem from the energetic Chinese population's control over much of the business life of the countries where they live. In the Philippines, although they make up only 1 per cent of the population, their

companies generate 35 per cent of sales among domestically owned firms. In Indonesia, with just over 2 per cent of the population, they own 70 per cent of private domestic capital and control 30 per cent of the economy. The story is similar in many other countries.

During the late 1960s, the Cultural Revolution spilt over into Chinese communities from Rangoon to Phnom Penh, fuelling local anger. At the time, Peking supported armed Communist insurgencies in South-East Asia. Even after mutual government-to-government recognition, Peking fostered resentment by maintaining party-to-party relations with local Communist groups.

With China's accelerated economic growth, however, the situation has changed, with overseas Chinese funds pouring into China. Even in Malaysia, Chinese businessmen are encouraged, at least on the surface, to invest in China. "This is officially portrayed as good for trade, foreign exchange earnings and the building of markets for Malaysian goods," one expert in Singapore said. "But there is an undercurrent of jealousy that somehow disloyalty is involved in transfer-



ring to China money and assets that belong at home."

In Indonesia, one newspaper gave a warning that it was not impossible that the flight of capital owned by the Chinese minority would "increase to a level which undermines the development of [Indonesia's] internal economy."

Dr Boonsong Sritruek, 70, president of the 10,000-strong Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok, a third-generation Sino-Thai, says that although he has invested in China, he has most of his assets in Thailand. "Thailand is my mother country but I also have Chinese blood," he

said. On speaking trips to Indonesia, he tells Chinese businessmen who invest in China to make sure they put money into their home economies at the same time.

While in the post-Cold War world the overseas Chinese problem is quiescent, if China becomes a major military power to match its growing economic superpower status and begins projecting its armed strength in the region, then, in the words of one expert: "You have a potentially inflammable mixture."

□ Hong Kong: China and the United States yesterday signed a last-minute agreement in Peking that will avert a trade war in which Washington would have cut Chinese quotas by 35 per cent and China would have retaliated by barring American manufacturers at a cost of thousands of jobs (Jonathan Mirtsky writes).

The deal, ending a marathon negotiating session over three days and nights between Jennifer Hillman, the US special ambassador for international trade, and Shi Guangsheng, a Chinese Deputy Foreign Trade Minister, binds the Chinese to control, if not stop, the \$2 billion (£1.35 billion) illegal shipment of cotton to America.

## Zulu might unleashed as king sees de Klerk

Thousands of Zulus invaded Pretoria to back their king's political demands. A strike and violent intimidation were added to the traditional armoury of assegai and knobkerry

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN PRETORIA

TENS of thousands of Zulus, many dressed in traditional leopard-skins and almost all carrying weapons, axes, spears, assegais and knobkerrys, massed on the lawns below the Union Buildings here yesterday, while their king, Goodwill Zwelithini, met President de Klerk inside. A five-minute volley of shots in the air came from the crowd as the talks progressed. After the firing, two people were reported hurt and another bitten by a dog.

The king told President de Klerk: "Neither I nor the

Amakhosi (chiefs) who serve the people under me could possibly advise the Zulu people to participate in the proposed April 27 election while the present constitution remains what it is." The king, who was accompanied by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of KwaZulu, also said that the expunging of the name KwaZulu and the question of a single ballot paper to represent the votes on both regional and national elections would prohibit their participation.

The king, who described himself as "the living embodiment of my father's people", defended the Zulu right of self-determination. He said: "The unthinkable has actually happened — an Afrikaner government, led by yourself, has agreed to the wiping of KwaZulu off the face of the Earth."

"It is my fervent hope," he said, "that the Zulu matters of state which I have raised with you today, sir, can be dealt with in negotiations, and that we will not finally face a competition between the ballot box and the ability of the Zulu people to resist."

The meeting between king and president lasted for more than two hours. The king was accompanied by members of his family and of the Swazi royal family, including Prince



Zulu members of the Inkatha Freedom Party brandishing tribal weapons as they left a Soweto hostel yesterday to make their way to Pretoria in support of King Goodwill

Dhlamini, the Swazi Prime Minister. President de Klerk was accompanied by R.F. "Fik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, Roelf Meyer, the Constitutional Development Minister, Kobie Coetsee, the Justice Minister, and Andre Fourie, the Minister in charge of the Black Homelands.

The talks were said to have included plans to withdraw the controversial riot police squadrons of the Internal Stability Department from the East Rand and replace them with soldiers of the South African Defence Force.

To mark the importance of the talks, Zulu-led trade unions called for a one-day general strike in the towns of the Witwatersrand, and Zulu crowds enforced the stayaway by intimidation and terror. At least 11 people were killed during the day, but it was not clear that all of them could be linked to enforcement of the strike. A number of deaths have been happening each day in the strife-racked black townships of the East Rand.

Buses and minibuses, taxis were prevented from running in Soweto to the west, and on

the East Rand. At least one bus was set ablaze and the road was closed outside one of the main hostels where migrant workers from Natal are housed. Other buses and taxis were commandeered by the king's supporters, anxious to get to Pretoria.

Township train stations were crowded with Zulus making their way to Pretoria, and anyone trying to go to work was frightened off. There were reports of commuters being thrown out of moving trains. A number of police searches were made of

the trains, but only one firearm was discovered, and that was licensed. In mid-morning the trouble spread to Alexandra, the black township set among the white northern suburbs of Johannesburg, a virtual haven of peace for the past 12 months.

A march of Zulus from the main KwaMadala hostel either came under fire or opened up unprovoked upon residents, depending on who tells the story. What is incontrovertible is that half a dozen squatter shacks were set on fire by hostel dwellers.

Crowds gathered on both sides of the divide near 3rd Street, in the area that used to be called "Beluri" because of the destruction wrought by intercommunal fighting between supporters of the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party and the African National Congress. In the Alexandra clinic six people were treated for injuries from the skirmishing. Three were critically hurt, including a woman whose jaw was smashed with a knobkerry and who suffered multiple gunshot wounds. A hostel dweller was also brought to

the clinic, having been rescued from a gang of youthful supporters of the ANC by residents who simply wanted peace to return. Two bodies were taken to Alexandra police station.

Also meeting President de Klerk yesterday was Nelson Mandela, the ANC president. He called at the Union Buildings early in the morning to resume discussions started last week over a comprehensive plan to bring peace to the townships. Neither leader would disclose the plan, but both undertook to meet again.



King Goodwill: plea for negotiations on ballot

## White supremacist faces third trial for murder

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

FOR the third time in as many decades, Byron De La Beckwith, a white supremacist, goes on trial today as America attempts to lay to rest one of the most unquiet ghosts in its troubled racial history.

Medgar Evers, an outspoken black civil rights campaigner, was shot dead in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi, on June 12, 1963. The fingerprints of Mr Beckwith, a former fertilizer salesman and an avowed racist, were found on the hunting rifle used in the murder.

For many Mississippi blacks, the murder was one of the more glaring acts of violence of the segregation era, but Mr Beckwith was never convicted. Two all-white juries failed to reach verdicts in 1964 and murder charges were dropped in 1969.

Mr Beckwith, 73, his profoundly racist views undimmed by the passing years and laid out in an autobiography, *Glory in Conflict*, insists that the rifle was stolen and claims he was in his home in Greenwood when the shooting took place. Yet Mr Beckwith

was subsequently heard boasting of the murder at a Ku Klux Klan meeting, according to Delmar Dennis, a former Klansman who gave evidence to the FBI.

After a newspaper report in 1989 indicated that the juries at Mr Beckwith's second trial had been screened by the state's sovereignty commission, the now disbanded body formed to monitor segregation, prosecutors won a third indictment and last year the Mississippi Supreme Court ordered Mr Beckwith to stand trial again.

According to Myrtle Evers, Medgar Evers' widow, the state governor was spotted in court at the first trial pitting Mr Beckwith on the back and warmly shaking his hand.

The third trial, in the same courtroom as the first two, has reawakened some of the uglier memories and emotions of Mississippi's past. Leaflets have been distributed in the areas from which potential jurors may be drawn describing Mr Beckwith as a "hero in war, a hero in peace," and calling on citizens to deliberate based on their consciences

rather than "only the facts" — a neat summation of white supremacist philosophy.

The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, America's largest civil rights body, has asked the Justice Department to monitor the trial. As an extra precaution against a tainted jury pool, jurors will be selected in northern Mississippi, starting today, and then moved to Jackson for the trial.

Mississippi is again divided, chiefly along racial lines, over whether Mr Beckwith should be tried once more. For most blacks the trial is an overdue opportunity for visible justice. Many whites, however, would rather close the book on the Evers case.

□ Klan challenged: Hundreds of demonstrators hurled rocks, banners and obscenities at about 65 Klansmen who rallied in Springfield, Illinois, to protest against the public holiday yesterday in honour of the Rev Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader assassinated in 1968. In Denver, Colorado, more than 100 police protected a similar rally of 19 rightwingers. (AP)

## Israel promises ballot on Golan

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S left-wing coalition government yesterday faced a barrage of protest from opposition parties who accused Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, of preparing to relinquish all of the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria.

In the first battle of what could become the dominant political debate, the Labour-led government was thrown on the defensive by irate hardliners, fearful that Syria, with America's support, will force a withdrawal from the strategic Heights.

During a noisy debate in the Knesset on the Golan, Mordechai Gur, the Deputy Defence Minister, promised that the government would hold a referendum before giving up any territory. The announcement came after two meetings in Jerusalem between senior American officials and Mr Rabin, where the Israeli leader and members of his Cabinet and military chiefs were briefed on the details of the five-hour discussions on Sunday in

Geneva between President Clinton and President Assad of Syria.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Leader of the main opposition Likud Party, called on hawkish members of Mr Rabin's Labour party to "listen to their consciences and vote with the opposition" rather than relinquish the Heights, where 13,000 Israeli settlers live.

After his second meeting with Mr Rabin, Dennis Ross, the State Department's co-ordinator on Middle East affairs, predicted some "movement" could be expected when Israeli and Syrian officials resume negotiations next week in Washington after a four-month lull.

□ Ban lifted: An Israeli insurance firm is to lift a short-lived ban on issuing policies to Israeli Arabs. Assessing the damage after media accusations of discrimination, the Zion company said that the ban which had been spelt out last week in a letter to one of its northern agents was a mistake. (Reuters)

## Bosnia raid rift puts UN general's job in jeopardy

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AS THE Bosnian peace talks resume in Geneva today, there are reports of growing friction between the United Nations commander in the former Yugoslavia and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the organisation's Secretary-General.

General Jean Cot, the French commander of the UN Protection Force based in Zagreb, could be sacked, according to a French government official in Paris, following a disagreement over air strikes in Bosnia. The general criticised Dr Boutros Ghali for refusing to delegate to him the power to order air strikes in defence of UN peacekeepers under attack in Bosnia.

Lieutenant-General Francis Briquemont, the Belgian officer who took command of UN troops in Bosnia last July, who is leaving his post prematurely because of exhaustion, is also said to have disagreed with UN policy in Bosnia. He is being replaced by Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, a former British SAS commander, this week.

Dr Boutros Ghali received a report yesterday from Yasushi Akashi, his envoy to the former Yugoslavia, on the feasibility of launching air strikes against two new targets highlighted by Nato leaders at the Brussels summit last week. The alliance said that it would be ready to launch tactical air strikes unless the Bosnian Serbs allowed 300 Canadian UN troops in Srebrenica, eastern Bosnia, to be replaced by a Dutch unit, and agreed to the reopening of Tuzla airport in the north.



Cot criticised Boutros Ghali

Foreign ministers from eight Muslim states, representing the 51-member Organ-

isation of the Islamic Conference, also renewed calls yesterday for a UN arms embargo to be lifted and urged air strikes against Bosnian Serb forces.

President Izetbegovic of Bosnia, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb chief, and Mile Alkaidic, the new Bosnian Croat negotiator, are due to resume negotiations today on Bosnia's ethnic carve-up. They will be joined by President Milosevic of Serbia and President Tudjman of Croatia.

Mr Karadzic yesterday threatened "all-out" war against the Muslim-led Bosnian government in Sarajevo if the peace talks ended without agreement. Meanwhile, Serbs fired shells onto the Muslim stronghold town of Zenica in central Bosnia, killing two people, including a boy, 10.

□ War crimes file: Britain has handed over to the UN investigating commission 100 pages of evidence of war crimes, including rape, committed in Yugoslavia. The evidence, from interviews with 4,000 people, was gathered from refugees allowed asylum in Britain.



# Yeltsin angers radicals as he tempers reforms

FROM ANNE McELVOY  
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin last night accepted the resignation of Yegor Gaidar, his young radical Economics Minister, but pledged that reforms would continue despite the loss of a figure considered by the West as a guarantor of free-market policies in a shifting and often chaotic government.

"Accepting this resignation, I would particularly like to stress the unchangeability of the President's course towards deep and democratic reform of Russian society, its economic and political institutions," Mr Yeltsin said.

The acceptance by the Russian leader of Mr Gaidar's departure, without even a symbolic attempt to woo him to stay on, indicates that he is placing his faith in Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and the cautious, state-centred restructuring policies for which he stands, rather than the team of younger radicals who determined the thrust of the reform programme up to now.

Mr Chernomyrdin, who is due to announce a Cabinet reshuffle today, spent yesterday in talks with Mr Yeltsin about the disarray in the government, the result of differing interpretations of how best to deal with the success of the far right and the left in last month's parliamentary elections.

Mr Gaidar, in his resignation letter, implicitly blamed Mr Chernomyrdin for pushing through Cabinet decisions which violated the government's declared commitment to inflation control through tight fiscal policies. He, together with Boris Fyodorov, the Finance Minister, and Ella Pamirova, the Social Services Minister, claimed that the levers of real power had been removed from their hands.



## Crimean defiance

Moscow Crimea is poised to elect a Russian nationalist as president. Yuri Meshkov, a former Communist, said after he won the first-round poll that he did not intend to secede from Ukraine and would improve ties with Kiev. President Kravchuk of Ukraine denounced the poll, saying the constitution does not provide for a Crimean President. The run-off is on January 30.

ing through Cabinet decisions which violated the government's declared commitment to inflation control through tight fiscal policies. He, together with Boris Fyodorov, the Finance Minister, and Ella Pamirova, the Social Services Minister, claimed that the levers of real power had been removed from their hands.

Grigori Yavlinsky, the liberal economist who is a possible candidate for Mr Gaidar's post, urged Mr Fyodorov not to leave, saying that it would be "very dangerous" for reform if the Finance Minister were to leave office. The departure of Mr Fyodorov as well as Mr Gaidar would strengthen the influence of conservatives such as Viktor Geraschenko, head of the Central Bank and long-standing enemy of the supporters of tight fiscal policy.

The split between Mr Yeltsin and his erstwhile allies in the reform movement is

open, with proponents of radical change accusing the Russian leader of abandoning his principles and moving towards more conservative positions to save his leadership.

It was an impression Mr Yeltsin's statement did little to avert. His call for the defence of reforms was accompanied by a reminder of the need to "take account of national and strategic interests", an example of the careful nationalist rhetoric which Mr Yeltsin is including with increasing frequency in his public pronouncements, in an attempt to sap some of the patriotic initiative from Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democrats.

The Russia's Choice bloc, set up by Mr Gaidar as the presidential movement in the parliamentary elections and which favours a more outright confrontation with the far right, turned on Mr Yeltsin, accusing his administration of

inconsistencies since December. Defending Mr Gaidar's and Mrs Pamirova's resignations, it said: "The economic and political situation in Russia has changed considerably. The leadership of the Russian government regularly departs from the course of stabilisation and reform while declaring that it remains true to it. In this situation the departure from the government of Russia's Choice representatives responsible for economic and social policy is the only possible decision."

The wording of the appeal places a question mark over the future of another key liberal, Anatoli Chubais, the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the privatisation programme.

The hostile response of Russia's Choice provides a conundrum for Mr Yeltsin, who badly needs the support of the party, the second largest in the Duma behind the Liberal Democrats. Yesterday he appealed to Mr Gaidar not to let Russia's Choice become yet another element of opposition to his presidency, calling on him to be "led by the highest interests of Russia".

Rebelle dips: The rouble plunged to record low levels on the Moscow and St Petersburg exchanges after Mr Gaidar's departure, changing hands at 1402 to the dollar. Currency dealers fear the onset of hyperinflation and an end to reforms, which had begun to curb the high inflation Russia has experienced since the abandonment of the Communist system.



Silvio Eschrich being dragged by court officials into his trial in Suhl yesterday as he spat at a photographer's lens

## Neo-Nazis jailed for athlete attack

FROM REUTER IN SUHL,  
EASTERN GERMANY

SILVIO Eschrich, a German neo-Nazi skinhead, was sentenced yesterday to two years and eight months in prison for beating up a white American athlete outside a nightclub who had come to the aid of a black colleague.

Eschrich denied that the attack was racially motivated, but the judge read out a statement the defendant gave to

police after the incident last October in which he was quoted as making racist remarks. He was charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm on Duncan Kennedy, a member of the US Olympic luge team, at the winter resort of Oberhof where the Americans were training.

Mr Kennedy, who suffered concussion, bruised ribs and a broken nose, said in evidence that he was beaten by the skinheads after they had made monkey noises and shouted "nigger" at

Robert Pipkins, a black teammate. Eschrich, 21, told the court that, in punching Mr Kennedy two or three times, he was only trying to help his friend, Tino Voelkel, 16, who was given a one-year sentence.

Eschrich and the youth are the first of seven skinheads to stand trial for the attack. Yesterday they both expressed their remorse to Mr Kennedy in court. "We were only having a little fun," Eschrich said before he was convicted.

## Passover poll date challenged

Rome. Embarrassed Italian officials are considering extending the general election by a day after the Jewish community complained that setting the poll for Passover, March 27, was discriminatory. (John Phillips writes).

Elio Toaff, the Rome Chief Rabbi, said the community was appealing to the Constitutional Court over the initial decision. "The law that regulates the underlying legislation between the state and Italian Jewry has been violated," he said. Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Prime Minister, apologised personally to the Chief Rabbi, saying the choice was unavoidable.

The government said that it was "ready to draft urgent legislative measures" allowing observant Jews to vote after dusk on Monday, March 28. (Leading article, page 19).

## Saddam escape

Nicosia. President Saddam of Iraq escaped an assassination attempt earlier this month by an army lieutenant, apparently acting alone, the third such threat since he crushed a coup plot last July, an authoritative Iraqi source said.

## Rushdie test

Cairo. In a test of the government's plans to relax artistic censorship, announced last Friday, the magazine *Rose al-Youssef* has published, for the first time in Egypt, excerpts from Salman Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses* and other banned works. (AP)

## Consular cuts

Paris. France is to reduce further its staff in Algeria after gunmen shot dead Monique Afi, 45, a French consular official married to an Algerian, in Algiers. She is the 26th foreigner to be killed since late September. (Reuters)

## Perilous swim

Port Moresby. Three Australian fishermen swam for 19 hours through shark and crocodile-infested water to safety after their boat sank off Papua New Guinea. They were discovered exhausted by villagers on a tiny island 20 miles west of Port Moresby. (Reuters)

## Winning angle

Stockholm. Simon Donaldson, of Oxford University, and Chinese-born Shing Tung Yau, at Harvard, jointly won the £200,000 Crafoord prize, awarded by the Swedish Academy of Sciences, for deepening knowledge of four-dimensional geometry. (AP)

## Lost life

Palermo. Angela Caruso, 78, written off as dead because of a clerical error in 1938, has been found alive in a psychiatric hospital and her family wants to know who has been pocketing her old-age pension for the past 14 years. (Reuters)



German U-boats made many sorties into the Pacific

## U-boat invaders milked Friesians in New Zealand

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN WELLINGTON

GERMAN U-boat sailors thirsty for fresh milk apparently invaded New Zealand during the Second World War, speaking into a farmer's field to raid his dairy herd.

Although the story has taken 49 years to emerge, it has all the elements of a classic wartime drama: a Nazi submarine with a fearless captain, secret night landings using an inflatable dinghy, and the clandestine milking of a herd of pedigree cows.

The circumstantial evidence points strongly to landings in 1945 by the U-boat on the beach near Napier, on Hawke's Bay on the east coast of North Island. Air Marshal Sir Rochford Hughes, one of New Zealand's most distinguished officers, wrote in the veterans' newspaper *Review* that the submarine was on extended patrol from Japanese-held Singapore. Sir Rochford said that in the late 1950s he met the U-boat's commander, Heinrich Timm, at a Royal Air Force Nato base near the Germans' Wilhelmshafen naval base — in the Friesian area.

Commander Timm said that his U-boat had been sent to Napier to check reports that an allied freighter was loading meat there for the war effort. But the freighter had engine trouble and stayed in port, so the submarine waited for three days and nights before giving up. He said that

he and his crew would "watch with envy and the help of binoculars the girls dancing in a hall near the harbour... and fresh milk from some cows was a welcome change, though they complained about doing it all in the dark. It seems we did have some milk taken which wasn't paid for."

Frank Steiner, a former Napier farmer, said yesterday that he believes it was his cows which were clandestinely milked by the Germans. He ran the nearest dairy farm to Napier, and recalled there had been a day during the war years when his herd of Friesians was suspiciously dry of milk.

"I can remember this incident and it made sense," Mr Steiner said. He added that his farm's location also backed the U-boat commander's anecdote. Both the farm and the dance hall would be easily visible from a U-boat's conning tower at sea.



## Bavarians boost Kohl candidate

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE Bavarian Christian Social Union yesterday threw its support behind Roman Herzog, a 59-year-old judge, as the government candidate for German President. The common front between the Christian Democrats and their Bavarian sister party ended months of political fumbling that has badly tarnished the leadership of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

Professor Herzog is chairman of the Constitutional Court, the highest legal authority, and an experienced provincial Christian Democrat politician. He is far more diplomatic than the first, ill-starred candidate, Steffen Heitmann, an east German theologian who gave the impression he was anti-immigra-

tion and wanted women to concentrate on motherhood rather than careers. It soon became clear Dr Heitmann would not secure the necessary majority from the 1,324-member electoral college in May. Assailed by press criticism, Dr Heitmann withdrew and the Chancellor had to seek a replacement. Though the liberal Free Democrats are not likely to withdraw their own candidate, Professor Herzog should gain most of the party's votes in the third round.

For Herr Kohl, the victory of Professor Herzog would send an important signal of support for family-orientated, conservative values as the Christian Democrats approach a series of critical elections.

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'My house felt like a tossed salad ... the shaking was so strong that I felt this is it'

# Quake ruins trailer home suburbia of Los Angeles

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

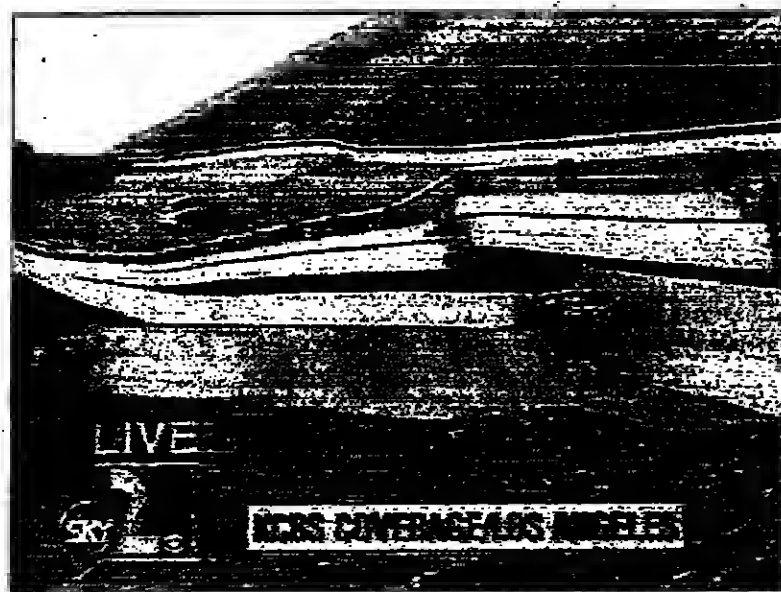
THIS time the homeless lived in trailers. Yesterday's earthquake, the second big disaster in Los Angeles in two months, struck at 4.31am, measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale, shaking the earth east to Las Vegas and south to San Diego, and blacking out the entire Los Angeles basin. An overpass of Santa Monica Freeway in Los Angeles buckled. An intersection of two important freeways in the San Fernando Valley collapsed. Water and gas lines were ruptured as 40

homes caught fire near Sylmar at the northern end of the valley, which spreads for 50 miles north of downtown, and is a suburban expanse of three million people. A 64-car freight train carrying hazardous material between Chatsworth and Northridge was derailed. The quake ripped through the conurbation, bringing frightened residents onto their balconies and lawns, and caused power cuts 1,000 miles away in Portland, Oregon.

At least ten people were reported killed. Pete Wilson, the Governor of California, said the casualty toll could have been much higher. "We were spared what might have occurred if this had been three hours later on a normal day," Mr Wilson told the Cable News Network. Yesterday was a public holiday.

"I've never prayed so hard for sunrise," said a radio reporter heading for the epicentre at Northridge. Sunrise revealed a gigantic pall of smoke from three burning mobile home parks and a nearby gas main which had exploded, sending orange flames 150ft into the air. A maze of ramps linking the heavily travelled Golden State freeway became a patchwork of rubble. Huge, soaring spans of the freeway collapsed and buckled, trapping motorists.

At the epicentre, near the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, water and gas mains were ruptured. Streets were flooded, bringing a wave



Many areas in Los Angeles were devastated. From top left, clockwise: the Santa Monica Freeway cracked in two; burst gas and water mains caused fire and flooding in Granada Hills; a couple escaped from their flat after the block collapsed and firefighters tried to rescue motorists



## America recalls worst tremors

Earthquakes that have been recorded in the United States include the following:

- April 18-19 1906: quake and fires level San Francisco, killing an estimated 700 people. Scientists later say it would have registered 8.3 on the Richter scale, adopted in 1935.
- March 10 1933: 6.3-magnitude quake in Long Beach, California, kills 115 people.
- July 21 1952: quake in the Tehachapi-Bakersfield area 50 miles north of Los Angeles registers 7.7.
- March 27 1964: known as the Good Friday quake, an 8.4-magnitude quake near Prince William Sound, Alaska, kills 131 people.
- February 9 1971: in San Fernando, California, a 6.5-magnitude quake leaves 65 dead.
- January 24 1980: 5.8-magnitude quake rocks the Livermore area east of San Francisco, damaging a nuclear weapons laboratory.
- October 1 1987: quake in Whittier, California, measuring 5.9 and a 5.3-magnitude aftershock kills eight.
- October 17, 1989: quake that shakes the San Francisco Bay area registers 7.1 and kills 63.
- June 28 1991: 5.8-magnitude quake under the San Gabriel Mountains in southern California kills two people.
- June 28 1992: two quakes, measuring 7.6 and 6.7, hit southern California, killing a boy.
- September 20 1993: 5.4-magnitude quake hits southern Oregon, burying a car and killing the driver.



Wilson: said toll could have been far worse

of mud into the worst affected areas, and reducing water flow to a trickle in urgently needed fire hydrants. By mid-morning, more than 50 fires were burning across the city, with 20 gas leaks threatening many more. According to one long-time mobile home resident, the earthquake had tipped the homes onto their sides, shearing off gas pipes and causing the sparks which started the fires. "Mobile homes are notorious in earthquakes. They go up like matchsticks," he said.

The earthquake was blamed on a "shallow fault thrust"

caused by the San Fernando Fault which last ruptured in 1971. Earthquake damage this severe has not been known in Los Angeles since 1933 and yesterday's quake was being compared to the great Landers quake of 1857. Initially, experts at the California Institute of Technology feared it might have been caused by the more famous and deadly San Andreas Fault, being merely a fore shock of an even stronger earthquake, but that danger receded with each passing hour.

Richie Zaven, 15, who lives within yards of the epicentre,

said his house felt "like a tossed salad" as he woke to see his bedroom dresser collapsing on him. "The shaking was so strong that I felt this is it." As helicopters water-bombed the fires and sirens whined through buckled streets to the flashpoints, radio stations advised excited Angelenos to "talk to people, maybe have a cup of coffee and thank God you are alive."

Charlotte Bhum, 42, a teacher from Granada Hills, said: "There was a lot of shaking and rumbling, then we heard a loud boom which turned out to be the gas main." She stood

with her daughter in her flooded garden at dawn, switching flames billow from the middle of the street. Her house was still standing but looked as if it had been turned upside down, then back on its feet. "We were having a sleepover party," she said. "My house is a mess but my kids are OK and that's what's important."

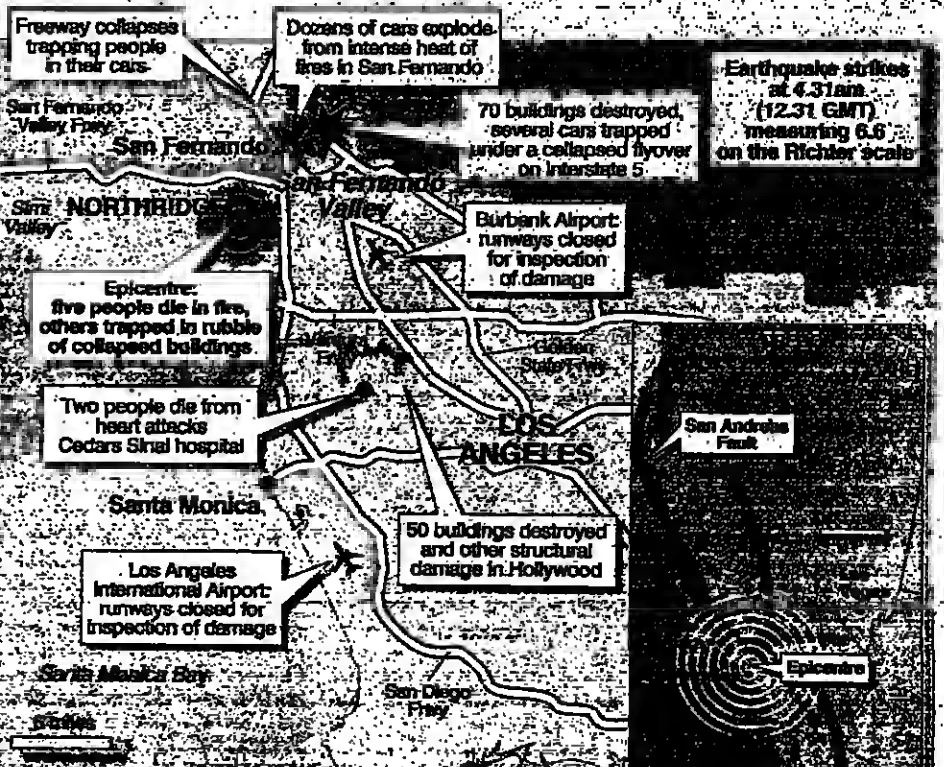
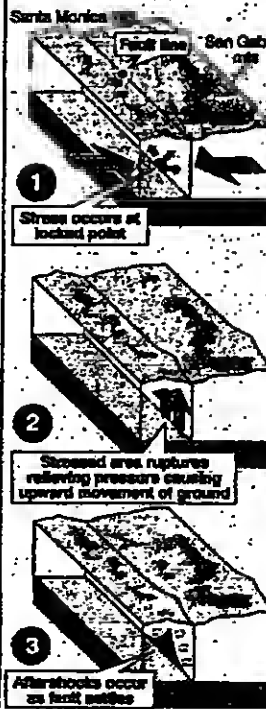
Pat Yomtov, 14, a block away, had been enjoying a different sort of party. "We were playing Nintendo, Dude, and the whole place was shaking. At first I thought it was the graphics." A carpenter

driving through the Sylmar area, having been to check on his brother's family, said: "In California, we plan for quakes the whole time, but you can never be ready. When it comes your nerves are shattered."

Malibu was not unscathed. The Pacific Coast Highway, which links the likes of Sean Penn to the studios in Hollywood, was blocked by a landslide, and in a repeat of last November's Malibu fires one of the brushwood canyons in the Santa Monica Mountains was ablaze.

State of emergency, page 1

### HOW EARTHQUAKES HAPPEN



## Scientists seize on disaster as chance to prepare for big one

BY NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY  
CORRESPONDENT

AN ANCIENT geological fault, perhaps dormant for millions of years, could have triggered the earthquake that struck Los Angeles yesterday. The epicentre of the quake, which measured 6.6 on the Richter scale, was at Northridge in the San Fernando Valley, 20 miles northwest of central Los Angeles.

Dr Russ Evans, a seismologist at the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh, where the world's earthquakes are monitored, said yesterday: "This is a very complicated area geologically. A lot of people in the earthquake business will be scrambling over this area for evidence of which fault it was."

He said the initial indications were that the fault was not part of the San Andreas, the major fault that runs along a line northwest to southeast from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

Around the Northridge area this main fault veers sharply west before suddenly returning to its old course. This swing is known as "The Big Bend". Dr Evans said: "Northridge is not on this, but is an area of scores of other smaller faults."

Some of the faults are old ones that led to the formation of a mountainous area known as the Transverse Range. Others are more recent, active faults. "But even faults which

The Richter scale, devised in 1935, goes from one to 12. It is logarithmic, so that an earthquake of five is ten times more powerful than one of four. The Modified Mercalli Scale by instruments and 12 is classified as catastrophic with total destruction. Six is strong with slight damage and seven is very strong, damaging poorly built structures. The level of damage is related to population and the quality of buildings.

have not been active in historical times could now be active too," Dr Evans said.

He added that, in spite of the reported deaths yesterday and the extent of the damage, some colleagues in California were viewing such quakes as blessings in disguise, since they were preparing the authorities for a repetition of the devastating earthquake of 1857 which was linked with the San Andreas.

He said that not only were these less severe quakes taking pressure off the main fault line, but they were helping to counteract complacency. Two of the biggest catalysts for improving the building codes in the area were the Long Beach and San Fernando earthquakes of 1934 and 1971.

"The people who live in the Los Angeles basin are finding out what getting a taste of an earthquake is all about, helping to keep up pressure on earthquake-proof building regulations and earthquake protection," he added. Seismologists said the earthquake was part of an

unstable regional geology that over a 50-million-year period is dragging Los Angeles north to where modern-day San Francisco now is. The many fault lines in the area are also pushing the San Gabriel and Santa Monica mountains together. Yesterday's quake could have brought the two ranges closer by about a quarter of an inch.

Bruce Presgrave, of the US Geological Survey's national earthquake information centre at Golden, Colorado, said yesterday that the quake had come without warning. "We still cannot predict earth-

quakes. There were some smaller earthquakes last week in the Santa Monica area. People will be trying to see if these were foreshocks, but prediction is still in its infancy," he said.

He said it was possible to set up warning systems for aftershocks by linking buried sensors at the epicentre of a quake with areas likely to be affected by subsequent tremors. This was done after the 1989 quake and gave people a 15-second warning.

Wellington: Many of the world's top seismologists were blissfully unaware than an earthquake measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale had struck their conference here at the weekend. Earthquakes are common in New Zealand, but few cause any damage.

"Apparently one or two delegates thought 'Oh well, it's just the cleaners'," Fred Davey, chairman of the organising committee, said. About half of the 450 delegates were said to have been unaware of the quake. (Reuters).

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Why did the Government attempt to block the first national survey of sexual behaviour?

# No facts, please, we're British

MARGOT NORMAN

Margaret Thatcher and her ministers tried to stop the most comprehensive survey of British sexual attitudes and behaviour ever compiled because, said Kenneth Baker in his memoirs, it would only show "that Britain had become a more promiscuous society — which we knew — and more experimental in the realm of bisexual relationships — which we also knew." He was wrong. In fact it would show something much more interesting and subtle, with some unexpected implications for both policy and rhetoric, as we now know because the Wellcome



unsettle the nation, as Kinsey's famous study unsettled America in the 1940s, by revealing the British as terminally decadent?

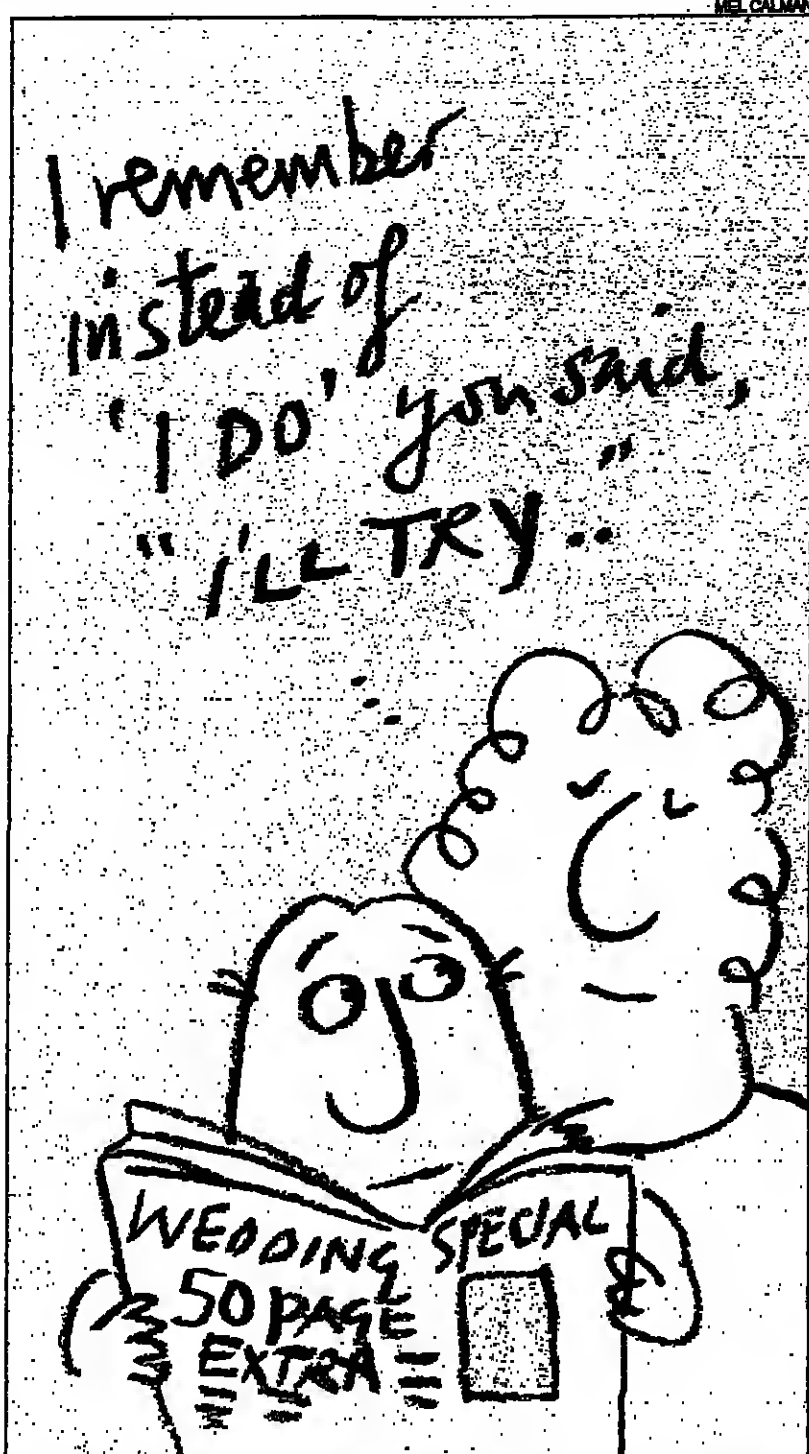
One thing they undoubtedly did not expect was to find themselves so much out of step with the general public on the issue of adultery in respect of both attitude and practice, as William Rees-Mogg pointed out yesterday. Only one person in 50 believes extramarital sex to be not at all wrong, and four out of five people think it is always or nearly always wrong. Fewer than one in ten married men and one in 20 married women reported being unfaithful to their spouse in the previous five years.

What made these ministers suppose they knew enough already?

Trust stepped in to fund the survey, of which substantial extracts have now appeared in *Nature* and *The Independent on Sunday*. The report, by Julia Field, Anne Johnson, Jane Wadsworth and Kaye Wellings, will be published in full next Monday by Blackwell.

Kenneth Baker, George Younger and Douglas Hurd were alarmingly arrogant and philistine in their determination four years ago to reject recommendations from the Government's own Chief Medical Officer, the Health Education Authority and the Economic and Social Research Council to fund this survey. Its primary purpose was to establish the facts that any government ought to know when committing substantial funds to a campaign to inhibit the spread of a deadly sexually transmitted disease, in this case AIDS. What made these ministers suppose they knew enough already, when all their own expert advisers insisted they didn't? Were they afraid that this report would

person who sticks with one partner is likely to have a more satisfying sex life than someone who has many partners, and more than two thirds supported the statement "sex tends to get better the longer you know someone". Young people are as firmly unenthusiastic about casual sex as are their elders, though nearly twice as many women as men think one-night stands are always wrong. Similar proportions (38 per cent of the men and 64 per cent of the women)



of those who had casual sex in the previous five years themselves thought it was always wrong, 100. Britain as a *News of the World* style hotbed of carnal promiscuity is not at all the picture that emerges here. People start their search for sexual gratification much earlier than they used to (women born in the early 1930s lost their virginity at 21; an average compared with 17 for the youngest age group, and nearly one

in five of the youngest did so before the age of consent), but what they really want is to settle down and stick to one person. The consensus on how to do that has changed dramatically, three quarters now believe sex before marriage is not wrong at all or only rarely so, as do girls who profess any other denomination or religion, but the boys are out there chasing girls with almost as much determination and success as their

should note, though, that over half the girls who had sex before the age of 16 thought it was too early.

There's an awful lot of disappointment, misunderstanding and — does this surprise you, politicians? — guilt, out there. Cohabiting couples behave more like the single than the married, but the women involved wish they wouldn't. Since the General Household Survey 1991 tells us that one in five of the unmarried or separated are cohabiting, that's a great swath of women who think they are in a monogamous relationship tied to men who think they aren't.

Sex educators should take account of that, too. There are a few other things they should note, such as the undeniable implication that teenage sex harms your career prospects. Those who become sexually active very young are much more likely to go on having multiple partners, and they are much less likely to pass their exams. (Young black males, by the way, lose their virginity, on average, a year younger than whites and three years younger than Asian males.) Although there are no strong correlations between sexual behaviour and social class except, bizarrely, in the matter of oral and anal sex, with the nobles favouring the former and the workers the latter, there is a clear link with education.

Over half of non-graduate men had sex before 18 compared with only one in five male graduates. This puts into perspective those tales of wild drunken pick-up sessions in student bars: they are just making up for lost time. And, if students need alcohol to help them lose their inhibitions, it seems the rest of the population doesn't. Only a tiny proportion (4 per cent of men, 2.7 per cent of women) admitted to being a bit drunk when they lost their virginity. Most of the rest went out to the chemists, bought themselves a packet of condoms because government propaganda had, indeed, sunk in, and got on with it in a fairly detached spirit of curiosity or because it seemed like a natural follow-on in the relationship. It was generally as unromantic as that sounds. Only a third said they were in love.

The Catholic Church should most certainly rethink its approach to sex education for boys, because whatever it is now doing evidently has the opposite of the intended effect. Only around one in 20 Catholic girls has sex under 16, as do girls who profess any other denomination or religion, but the boys are out there chasing girls with almost as much determination and success as their

agnostic brethren. Or is the intended effect perhaps that girls should be good and boys should sow their wild oats with pagan lost souls before settling down to Christian marriage?

Speaking of lost souls, the oldest profession is apparently in a steady decline. According to this survey, whose authors rightly indicate that what people admit about paying for sex needs treating with some caution, the old masculine tradition of "losing one's virginity to a prostitute has completely died out among the youngest age group. About 10 per cent of the older men, generally middle-class ones, had at some time visited prostitutes, but very few of those made much of a habit of it. Only one in 500 admitted to a tally higher than ten. Georges Simenon is certainly not alive and well and living in England, although one cannot help wondering about the identity of the man who claimed over 4,500 conquests. Tantalising not to know whether he was very handsome, or just very rich.

A significant point emerged here for the anti-Aids campaign. The section of this report dealing with homosexual behaviour has not yet been released, but bisexual men were far more likely to visit prostitutes than those who had never slept with another man. A pre-war prostitute's clients were mostly married, but nearly all of a contemporary prostitute's clients would seem to be bisexual and/or divorced or separated.

Britain has, however, made a better job than most countries of containing the Aids epidemic. Norman Fowler was right to react promptly, although it can be said and often is that we might have spent our funds better, and spent less, if we had had the information in this survey — that the Cabinet wanted to suppress a few years earlier. If nothing else, this report suggests the French may be right in saying that we British only resist our sex scandals as we do because they are so unusual; and they are unusual because there really isn't much sex going on in Britain at all. It is commonplace for fertility doctors to tell patients they are having difficulty conceiving because they simply don't make love as often as the Americans, the Australians and the Italians. Eight or nine times a month is the average for 25-44 year-olds, dropping sharply after two years with the same person. As I said, hardly a bodied.

Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Blackwell Scientific Publications, £29.95); Sexual Behaviour in Britain (Penguin, £15).

Those who become sexually active very young are less likely to pass their exams

TIMES READER OFFER: 20 PER CENT OFF SELECTED HOLIDAYS PLUS THE CHANCE TO WIN A HOLIDAY FOR TWO IN INDIA

## Go Places holiday offer

Following the success of last month's "Go Places" travel offer, *The Times* is repeating some of the holidays featured, giving you a second opportunity to save 20 per cent on some very special holidays. You and your family can save 20 per cent per person from the cost of selected holidays worldwide. Within weeks you could be booking an idyllic beach holiday, a cruise in the Mediterranean, a magnificent tour of India or an adventurous safari in Kenya. Two people could easily save from £100 to more than £1,000 on some holidays. Even groups are entitled to the 20 per cent saving. Many tours include five-star accommodation, transfers and sightseeing, car hire, travel insurance and tipping.

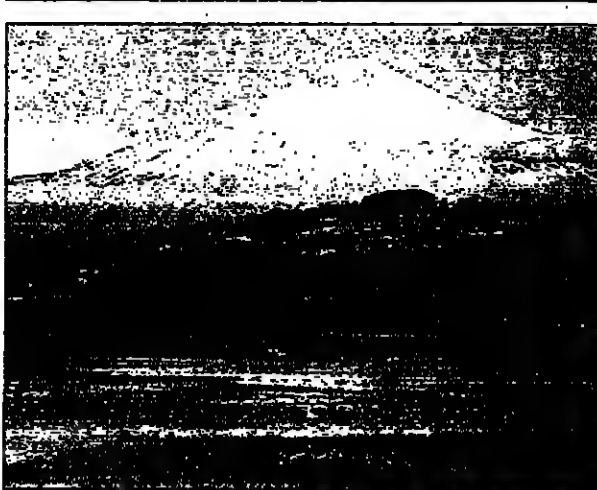
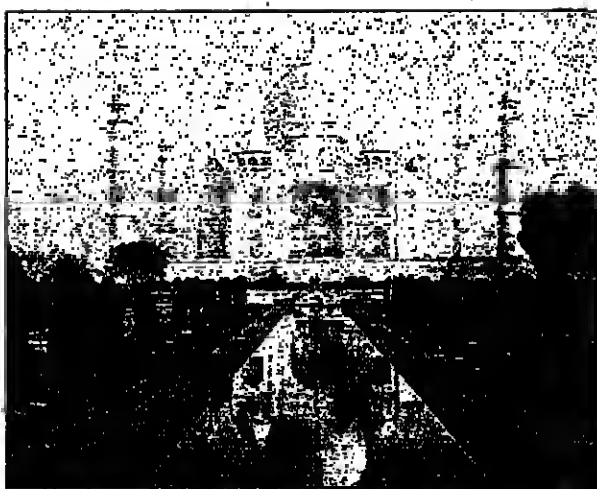
This week, *The Times* will feature all of the holidays offered by the participating tour operators in this offer. Today readers are offered 20 per cent off the holidays shown below from Cox & Kings. For further details, a brochure and a booking form, simply telephone 071-873 5005 or send a written request to: *The Times Travel Offer*, Cox & Kings, 45 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AF, specifying which tour you are interested in.

Getting your discount is so simple: today and each day until Saturday, January 22, a special token will appear in *The Times* — six tokens in total. You need collect only three tokens to qualify for your 20 per cent discount. The discount applies to any number of people booking on any one tour operator's booking form.

● The holidays featured are from February 1994 to the end of December 1994, and you can choose any number of holidays, providing you have collected three tokens per holiday.

● The 20 per cent discount will apply to any holiday featured with no restriction on price.

● When you have chosen your holiday, complete the relevant tour operator's booking form and send it with the required deposit and three Times tokens to: *The Times Travel Offer*, Cox & Kings Travel, St James Court, Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AF. Bookings must be received by February 28, 1994.



From top, clockwise: Taj Mahal, India; South American market; St Basil's, Moscow; and Lake Villarrica, Chile

## Win a luxury trip to India

Today is the second day of our fabulous holiday competition. *The Times* is offering readers the chance to win a holiday for two each day. You and a partner could be cruising in the Mediterranean, taking a Safari in Kenya, trekking in America or relaxing in the Caribbean.

Today, we are offering you the opportunity to win a luxury eight-day tour of India with Cox & Kings. The tour covers Agra, Delhi and Jaipur. Included in the prize are return flights, luxury hotel accommodation and excursions. To enter the competition, answer the three questions printed below. Write your answers on a postcard with your name and address and send it to: *The Times Holiday Competition* (Day 2), PO Box 223, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 1YE to arrive no later than February 2, 1994. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received by this date and notified by post.

If you enter all five daily competitions published this week, you can also enter our accumulator competition and win a luxurious beach holiday at Le Sport Hotel on the Caribbean Island of St Lucia. To enter, answer the three questions published today. Make a note of the first letter of each answer, and save it. Do this each day and after five days you will have 15 letters which will reveal a phrase, the answer to the accumulator competition. Full details of where to send your entry will be published on Saturday, January 22, 1994.

Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply.

- Part of which major river forms the Colombia-Venezuela boundary?
- On which peninsula was the last outpost of the Mayans?
- In which country is the highest active volcano in South America?

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This is your second token.

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GO PLACES

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### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- All bookings for this reader offer should be sent to *The Times Travel Offer*, Cox & Kings, St James Court, 45 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AF. Your booking form should be accompanied by three tokens and the relevant deposit.
- All bookings should be received by February 28, 1994, by post only.
- The discount is applicable only to the specific tour mentioned in *The Times* offer, and excludes any other holiday, insurance, supplements, car hire (except where car hire is part of the offer), special excursions, amendments, surcharges, visas or cancellation charges.
- Existing bookings cannot be taken over from other travel agents or operators.
- Insurance: You must ensure that you are fully covered for the holiday you book and forward details of the policy arranged when making your booking form. You may arrange your own insurance or use the relevant tour operator.
- Readers who book a holiday featured in *The Times Travel Offer* do so with the tour operator providing it. Readers' contracts are with the relevant tour operator's booking conditions as detailed in their brochure.
- No early booking discount or any other offer can be used in conjunction with *The Times Offer*.
- All the holidays offered are subject to availability and the responsibility for the accuracy of the information in any brochure lies with the tour operator. The operators reserve the right to decline at their discretion.
- Responsibility for the management,

organisation, and operation of the holidays, offered rests with the relevant tour operator and not with *The Times* Newspapers Limited or unless it is their holiday, Cox & Kings Travel Limited. The tour operator is the organiser for the purpose of the Package Travel Package Holiday and Package Tours Regulations of 1992.

10. Payments must be made by cheque or MasterCard and Visa only. Credit card payments will incur a 1.5 per cent surcharge. All payments must be made to "Cox & Kings Travel Limited".

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15. Offer is open to UK residents only.

16. All operators participating in this offer are fully bonded by the Civil Aviation Authority or in association with the Passenger Shipping Association.

The following tours are found in the "Latin American" brochure.

**JUNGLES AND MARKETS:** A 15-day journey to Central America. Departure 9 June, 15 September, 10 November 1994. £1,076 (down from £1,295). Save £419.

**FROM REEF TO RAIN-Forest:** A 15-day journey through Belize. Departure 10 May, 20 October, 1 December 1994. £1,756 (down from £1,955). Save £439.

**THE LOST WORLD:** A 14-day journey through Venezuela. Departure 15 March, 15 May, 2 October, 20 November 1994. £1,762 (down from £1,940). Save £536.

**CONQUISTADORES, INCAS AND ISLANDS:** A 17-day tour of Peru and the Galapagos Islands. Departure 3 June, 7 October, 18 November 1994. £2,946 (down from £3,295). Save £399.

**PAMPAS TO PATAGONIA:** A 14-day journey from Buenos Aires to Tierra del Fuego. Departure 10 March, 15 October, 12 November 1994. £2,946 (down from £3,295). Save £399.

**ATACAMA, ANDES AND BEYOND:** A 14-day exploration of Chile from Santiago to southern Chile and Chiloe Island. Departure 10 March, 14 April, 20 October, 17 November 1994. £1,988 (down from £2,485). Save £497.

**EMERALD LAKES OF THE ANDES:** A 17-day journey through the Andes. Departure 15 September, 28 September 1994. £2,591 (down from £2,950). Save £356.

**THE ANDES TO THE ANGEL FALLS:** A 15-day journey combining the ancient wonders of Peru with the Angel Falls in Venezuela. Departure 22 March, 26 April, 11 October 1994. £2,044 (down from £2,555). Save £511.

From the "India & Beyond" brochure.

**INDIAN EXPERIENCE:** An eight-day tour — Delhi, Jaipur and the Taj Mahal. Departure 10 March, 14 April, 20 October 1994. £1,682 (down from £1,915). Save £233.

**SPLENDOURS OF THE NORTH:** 14 days in India's former princely states and the Gangetic plain. Departure 11 September 1994. £1,106 (down from £1,405). Save £299.

**FORTS AND PALACE OF RAJPUTANA:** A 17-day journey through Rajasthan. Departure 25 March 1994. £1,150 (down from £1,450). Save £300.

Departure 10 March, 14 April, 20 October, 17 November 1994. £1,988 (down from £2,485). Save £497.

Departure 2 September 1994. £1,276 (down from £1,593). Save £316.

**TRAIN TO CALCUTTA:** A 13-day train journey across the Indian plains via Agra, Gwalior, Jaipur, and Varanasi. Departure 15 February, 18 March 1994. £1,092 (down from £1,292). Save £200.

**JUNGLE ODYSSEY:** A 20-day discovery of India's wildlife. Departure 5 March, 3 December 1994. £1,916 (down from £2,391). Save £475.

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**THE SPIRIT OF TIBET:** A 15-day journey to the "Roof of the World". Departure 6 May, 12 June 1994. £2,150 (down from £2,650). Save £500.

**PAKISTAN — THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER:** A 16-day journey to Lahore, Peshawar, Ghazni, Swat Valley. Departure 12 and 24 May 1994. £1,396 (down from £1,745). Save £349.

**BHUTAN — THE HIDDEN KINGDOM:** A 16-day introduction to the tiny Buddhist kingdom. Departure 4 April, 19 September 1994. £2,316 (down from £2,695). Save £379.

**MALAYSIA:** A 15-day journey to Borneo, Kuala Lumpur, Kota Kinabalu, Malacca and Singapore. Departure 25 March, 18 November 1994. £1,146 (down from £1,455). Save £309.

**THE INDOONESIAN ARCHipelago:** A 17-day exploration of the spice islands. Departure 12 August 1994. £1,594 (down from £1,993). Save £399.

**PALACE ON WHEELS:** An eight-day tour of India. Departure 4 and 23 March, 8 April, 1994. £1,280 (down from £1,550). Land only. Save £270.

**THE ANDALUS EXPRESS:** A six-day journey through Andalusia from Seville to Jerez. Departure 3 April, 8 May, 5 June, 3 August, 11 September 1994. £1,196 (down from £1,485). Save £289.

**FROM THE "Bolshoi Express" brochure:**

**A WEEK IN ANCIENT MUSCOVY:** An eight-day tour from Moscow to St Petersburg. Departure 8 May 1994. £296 (down from £350). Save £54.

**ST PETERSBURG TO TASHKENT:** A 14-day journey across Kazakhstan to the silk route cities. Departure 13 March 1994. £1,990 (down from £2,450). Save £460.

**ST PETERSBURG AND THE BALTIc STATES:** A ten-day journey from St Petersburg via the Baltic republics to Moscow. Departure 12 August 1994. £1,356 (down from £1,655). Save £299.

**MOSCOW AND THE GOLDEN RING:** A 10-day journey from Moscow to Suzdal. Departure 2 July 1994. £1,150 (down from £1,450). Save £300.

**THE ANDALUS EXPRESS:** A six-day journey through Andalusia from Seville to Jerez. Departure 3 April, 8 May, 5 June, 3 August, 11 September 1994. £1,196 (down from £1,485). Save £289.

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## How to stop death on the tracks

Researchers call for safety devices to reduce the growing number of suicides on London's Underground

In 1872, Count Leo Tolstoy attended an inquest on a young woman who had thrown herself under a train. The incident was the inspiration for the writing of *Anna Karenina*, whose fictional death occurred in the same manner.

It is difficult for us today to appreciate the impact this made when the book was published in 1878. Tolstoy's decision to end his heroine's life under the wheels of a train was a deliberate reference to the growing and brutal impact of industrialisation.

The first recorded case of suicide in front of an English train occurred in 1852. Since then numbers of railway suicides have steadily increased, reflecting the spread of the railways.

For many years suicide has been the commonest cause of death on British railways. Out of about 300 people who die on the railways every year, suicide is the official verdict in about half the cases.

This figure has been stable

ular concern for several reasons. Most people who risk their life by taking an overdose of tablets survive — only about half those who jump under trains do so.

Many suicidal attempts are impulsive. If someone can be prevented from, or alternatively survives, the suicide attempt, they do not usually immediately look for another, more successful, method. Therefore reducing the opportunity for suicide saves lives.

Those who survive a dramatic and dangerous attempt often take spiritual comfort from their survival — it can act as a return of hope.

Several contributors to *Social Science and Medicine* make practical suggestions for reducing the risk on the Underground. They suggest that more "suicide pits", the gap between the rail and the ground, are needed. These are standard in Hong Kong, where most jumpers fall safely under the rail.

It was also noted that most suicides occur just as a train



King's Cross: highest record of suicides

for some years, but over the last 20 years there has been a steady increase in a number of people attempting suicide on the London Underground. About 100 such attempts are now recorded annually. Alarmed at this increase, London Underground recently commissioned studies which are published in the February issue of *Social Science and Medicine*.

Sociologist Ian O'Donnell and epidemiologist Richard Farmer, working in the department of public health at Charing Cross Hospital, looked at the pattern of cases across the Underground. The station with most such incidents was King's Cross. However, if one takes into account the volume of passengers, the stations most vulnerable to suicide attempts were Mile End, Tooting Bec and Archway, closely followed by the Oval and Clapham North.

A glance at the location of London's psychiatric hospitals reveals why — all these stations are close to a psychiatric centre. This serves as a timely reminder of the facts of suicide — the vast majority of those who take their life do so as a result of mental illness.

Railway suicides do not account for many of the 5,000 suicides recorded annually in this country, but are of partic-

ular concern for several reasons. Most people who risk their life by taking an overdose of tablets survive — only about half those who jump under trains do so.

Many suicidal attempts are impulsive. If someone can be prevented from, or alternatively survives, the suicide attempt, they do not usually immediately look for another, more successful, method. Therefore reducing the opportunity for suicide saves lives.

Those who survive a dramatic and dangerous attempt often take spiritual comfort from their survival — it can act as a return of hope.

Several contributors to *Social Science and Medicine* make practical suggestions for reducing the risk on the Underground. They suggest that more "suicide pits", the gap between the rail and the ground, are needed. These are standard in Hong Kong, where most jumpers fall safely under the rail.

It was also noted that most suicides occur just as a train

**SIMON WESSELY**

The author is senior lecturer in psychological medicine at the Institute of Psychiatry

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**BONHAMS**

Dr James Le Fanu explores the sweaty, smelly, complex world of fungi

## Fungus as bogeyman

Few medical problems are more routine than a young woman with an attack of vaginal thrush, perhaps following a course of antibiotics. The diagnosis is self-evident — an itchy white discharge — and the treatment one dose of the anti-fungal pill Diflucan — could not be more straightforward. Scarcely intellectually challenging, yet the great pleasure of practising medicine is that virtually every ailment, no matter how trivial, opens a window on to the sublime mysteries of the natural world.

The yeast that causes thrush, *Candida*, is only one of 80 species of micro-organisms — fungi, bacteria and protozoa — to be found in their hundreds of millions in the healthy human body. As in any other habitat, each species struggles to maintain its foothold against adversaries.

The presence of so many micro-organisms in such close symbiotic relationship to man protects and maintains human health in myriad subtle ways. So resident bacteria in the throat, such as *Streptococcus viridans*, secrete an antibiotic-like compound, bacteriocin, which prevents infection by other, more toxic pathogens which cause pneumonia and abscesses; *Lactobacilli* in the vagina secrete hydrogen peroxide, which is toxic to *Candida* species and so keeps thrush at bay and protects against gonorrhoea and other sexually transmitted infections; normal flora in the gut generate short-chain fatty acids which are toxic to organisms that cause dysentery, such as cholera and salmonella.

Yet the role of these organisms is not entirely benign, and nowhere is this better seen than with human fungal infections responsible for such diverse, if minor, ailments as ringworm, athlete's foot, dhotie itch (ringworm of the groin) and dandruff.

Fungi are an evolutionary anomaly. Their chief function is as recyclers of the detritus of the organic world, and they can flourish in the most hostile of environments. They have been recovered from acids, inorganic solutions, distilled water bottles, and even pathology museum specimens. There are more than 100,000 types, 11 of which have adapted to living on humans, feeding off the tough fibrous protein, keratin, which is present in hair and skin cells. The keratin itself is encased in a strong membrane but, true to their destiny as recyclers, the fungi do not find this an impediment. Their narrow, thread-like protuberances or hyphae literally push their way in and secrete a group of digestive enzymes which make the keratin edible.

The fungi are ubiquitous. Everybody harbours one or two strains on their skins, which usually cause no symptoms. But if the integrity of the skin is breached and they get a hold, particularly in some warm, moist area or inaccessible site, they are astonishingly resilient and difficult to eradicate.

Tinea corporis or ringworm is the simplest form found on humans, from the Arctic to the equator to the Antarctic. The term "ringworm" reflects the manner in which it spreads from the site of infection outwards in a centrifugal fashion to form characteristic red, scaly and itchy rings.



The fungus *Trichophyton rubrum*, with its thread-like hyphae — Pliny recommended "sow's gall and bull's urine" as the best remedy

Another form, *tinea versicolor*, is more generalised. This fungus interferes with manufacture of skin pigment, leading to dark patches in Caucasians and pale ones in dark-skinned people. Ninety-two per cent of the population harbour the organism responsible, *Malassezia furfur*, either on the scalp or chest. As with many other fungal infections, the reason why it should cause symptoms in some but not others is not at all clear.

This is the case with athlete's foot. The toe webs would seem to provide the ideal environment for fungal proliferation, but attempts experimentally to induce the condition by regularly immersing the feet of volunteers in water laden with fungi have failed to produce a single case. This suggests that athlete's foot is not a contagious disease spread from one person to another, but rather that the fungus is almost universal, and symptoms develop only in those with



Itchy misery of athlete's foot

a genetic predisposition, or in the very favourable circumstances found in heavy footwear, which generates the right degree of sweaty humidity. Nor indeed are fungi solely responsible for the smelly discomfort of

athlete's foot. Rather, athlete's foot has been described as an ecological wonderland of competing organisms. First come the fungi which alone can break through the tough cell wall to get at the keratin. Other resident bacteria in the vicinity are killed off by naturally secreted antibiotics, such as penicillin. The bacteria, however, hit back, first by becoming resistant to the fungi's antibiotics, and then by overwhelming them with force of numbers.

One bacterium in particular also inhibits fungal growth and, by synthesising a variety of foul-smelling gases with evocative names such as cadaverine and putrescine, gives rise to the unpleasant, cheese-like odour found in those badly affected. Thus, interestingly, in some of the worst cases of athlete's foot, fungi can be detected in less than a quarter of cases. Treatments must be directed first at killing off the bacteria, and only then against the fungi.

Pliny recommended "sow's gall and bull's urine" as the best antifungal remedy. More mundane domestic cures include antiseptics, iodine and salts, but for the really difficult cases modern drug therapy is always necessary.

The subtle and often mutually beneficial relationship of man and his natural flora falls apart when the immune system is compromised by infection with the HIV virus. Indeed much of the distress of AIDS patients, particularly in the later stages of their illness, is due to these otherwise innocuous micro-organisms. In the words of Philip Mackowiak of the University of Texas: "The natural microbial flora cannot be viewed in absolute terms according to their capacity to benefit or menace the hosts. Given the appropriate circumstances, each species can either help or harm."

## Bicker and you'll get sicker

Continual arguments can make couples more vulnerable to viruses

Sarcasm can damage your health. So can bickering, disapproval, long-term fighting or screaming at your spouse or partner. New research shows that disagreements between couples tend to weaken their immune systems and make them more susceptible to viruses and even tumours.

Researchers at Ohio State University took 90 newly wed couples with pristine mental and physical health records, put them in controlled conditions for 24 hours, and watched them argue on video. Sampling their blood before and after fights, the scientists found their immune systems

to be much lower after the conflict.

Dr Ronald Glaser, a virologist, explains: "A professional psychologist talks to them about their relationship — problems with in-laws, money, leisure time... From that, we find hot areas for them to get into, wait until they're accustomed to the situation, and then they get angry. After the first couple of minutes they stop noticing the camera."

The researchers, who include Dr Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, a psychiatrist, and Dr William Malarkey, an endocrinologist, found that women's immune systems showed more damage than men's. Dr Glaser says: "Women are more physiologically aroused, while guys stonewall. By doing that, men often block out the physical reaction. On the other hand, men might not get problems resolved."

Couples who were nastier to each other during the half-hour discussion of a marital problem showed greater immunological change, and had higher blood pressure for longer during and just after the argument. "We're not saying people shouldn't disagree," says Dr Glaser. "It's the quality of the disagreement that seems to cause problems."

The team suspects that arguments between couples that last for hours or days at home would show a more severe

depletion of the body's natural virus-killing cells. They acknowledge that spending 24 hours in a laboratory having blood tests and being asked to argue in public is itself stressful.

If a tiny argument has a temporary effect on the immune system, major events such as divorce and bereavement have more profound consequences for health. "Divorce is a big stressor," Dr Glaser says. "Marital studies show that people who are recently divorced are more at risk of illness. People in happy marriages are generally more healthy, but people who stay in marriages full of conflict are often in as bad a state as those divorcing."

The group's latest project is

testing the health of spouses whose partners have Alzheimer's disease. Although the project is only three years old, it is clear from the couples tracked that the long-term stress of nursing someone lowers the immune system.

Although young people would probably find their health back to normal after a short while, aged immune systems are less resistant and do not have the same ability to change. Hence, older people tend to get more colds and flu. The research "marriage" in the fields of psychiatry and immunology is partly the result of the Glaser's own marriage. Their cross-disciplinary experiments started in 1982 when Janice Glaser suggested they compare medical students' immune systems and mental states while under the stress of final exams. Her husband went along with the idea, while suggesting — much to his chagrin now — that the experiment was "hogwash".

KATE MUIR

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## Lynne Truss



### Donor organs are all very well, but one wouldn't want a mix-up

I would like you to imagine the following narrative and see what is wrong with it. A woman, in Virginia, drives at top speed away from the house where she has just severed her husband's penis. She is by nature a long-suffering person (as evidenced by her placid acceptance of her married name — Bobbitt — with all its connotations of finger puppets), but under the strain of the relationship she has finally snapped like a dry stick, and now she hares away from the grisly scene. She tosses the offending pizzle from the car window and drives on. All this may sound implausible, but in credibility terms it is easy meat compared with the next bit. For, shortly after, the police arrive, locate the member, pack it in ice and see-naw it to a hospital (doubtless singing encouraging songs to it, to keep its peck — I mean, er, to boost its morale), where it is successfully re-attached to a grateful Mr Bobbitt.

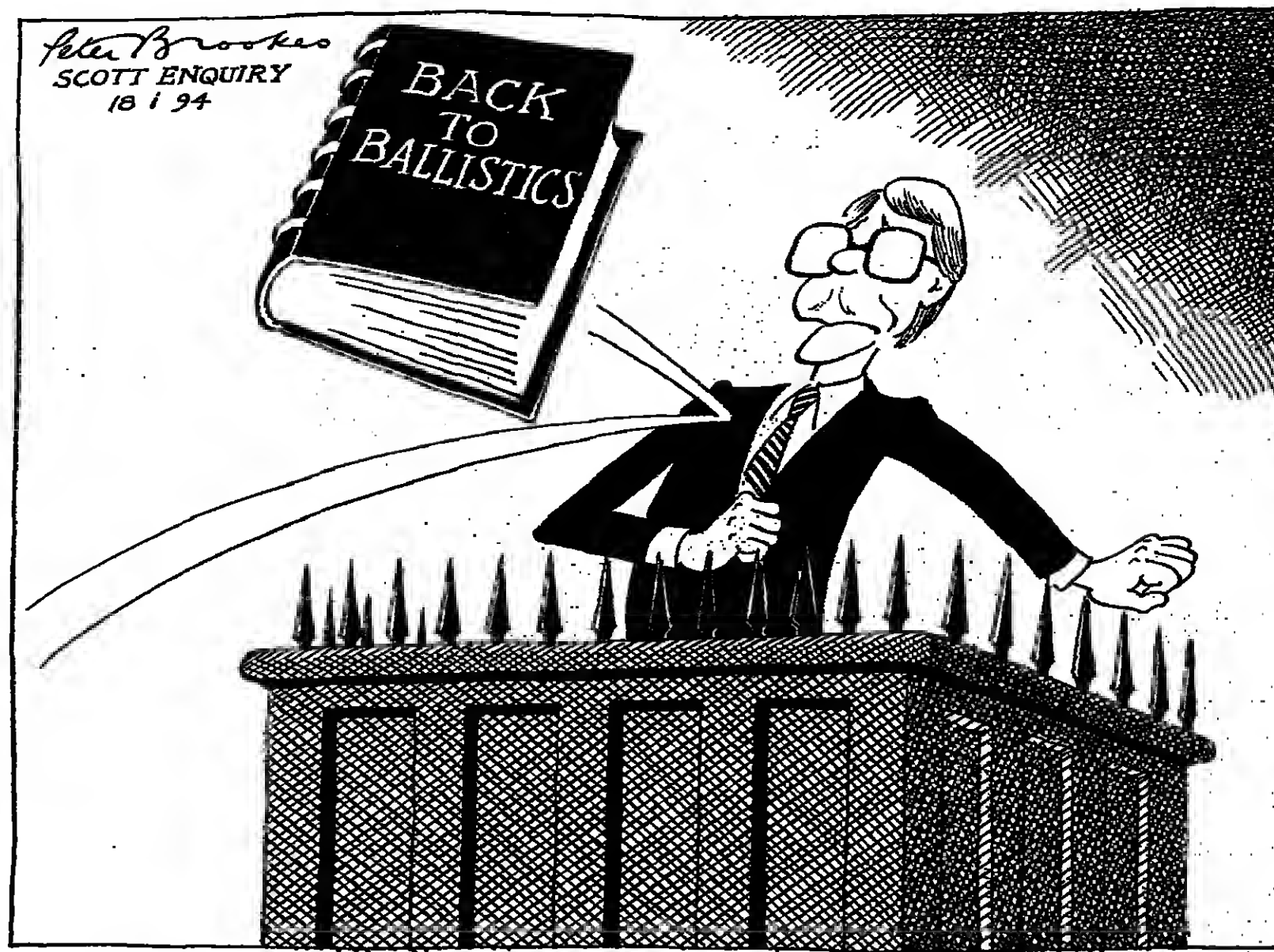
Now my point is this. If you leave a trowel in the long grass next to the shed, you can't find it, can you? If you drop a clothes-peg on the kitchen floor and it bounces sideways, it can disappear for weeks. Yet for some reason Mr Bobbitt's severed member was found easily by the side of a busy road. Is this not suspicious? If I were Mr Bobbitt, what would really worry me right now is not the imminent outcome of the court case against Mrs Bobbitt, nor even the off-colour willy-jokes at my expense ("It will never stand up in court", and so on). No, I would be thinking: do I have the right willy? What if those well-meaning state troopers, scouring the dusty roadside ("There it is! We got it!"), actually located somebody else's?

You may not remember the old German film *The Hands of Orlac*, but it is relevant. I promise. The plot concerned a virtuoso pianist who by a crushing misfortune loses both his hands in a railway accident, but whose career is ostensibly saved when a scientist secretly sews on some donor hands belonging to a freshly hanged murderer, whose devious speciality happened to be strangling and knife-throwing. Doubtless you can see where this is leading. The post-operative pianist peers at his big mitts ("They don't look like mine," he comments, but tragically lets it pass), and then tries to practise some scales, only to find that — musically speaking — his new fingers have "Geest" and "Efties" written all over them. It is peculiar. Then one day his fiancée's newspaper is snatched by a gust of wind, and he automatically picks up a Saboteur, yells "Leave this to me!", and hurls the knife with such deadly accuracy that it nails the paper to the floor. Naturally, there is a significant pause while she looks at him, and he looks at the knife, and then they both look at his sewn-on hands, with glum expressions.

Reports of Mr Bobbitt's operation tell us it was only partially successful. In other words, it is not the willy that is used to be. Enough said, I think. Much attention stateside has focused on the advisability of women taking the law into their own hands, and on the disturbing idea that here, in the Bobbitt emasculation, is the most terrifying of all female revenges. But of course it isn't, not by a long measure. A proper job would involve detailed pre-planning, and in particular the planting of a lookalike willy on a main road (a stand-in), possibly next to a large sign with "I think this is what you're looking for, officer" written in large letters upon it. In the sweetest of all possible revenges, Mr Bobbitt would therefore emerge from his anaesthetic and say, "Funny, doesn't look like mine", but cast such doubt immediately from his thoughts, as impossibly far-fetched.

Tattooed serial numbers would seem to be the answer, if any man is worried. But I doubt Mrs Bobbitt with her kitchen knife has started a trend, or anything. Most women are rightly repulsed by the idea of mutilation; if there is a nasty cackle of joy among certain feminists at the Bobbitt news, it's just that there is something irresistibly hilarious at the idea of standing between a man and his willy, for however brief a span. I just hope the Hollywood Bobbitt films have thought of the *Orlac* angle. It would be a shame not to grab it up, rush it to the studios, and stitch it on sharpish. After all, it wouldn't even matter if it didn't quite fit.

Peter Brooks  
SCOTT ENQUIRY  
18 1 94



## A prisoner's testament

In the hands of Islamic fundamentalists, true religious feeling has become a weapon, and holiness a heresy. Why?

There are different kinds of savages. Perhaps the worst of them are those who believe — or, rather, claim to believe — that they have been given some kind of message from their deity which permits them — indeed orders them — to demand that those professing a different faith must renounce it, on pain of ostracism, expulsion, imprisonment or ultimately execution. Such people now rule Iran.

There is a man there named Mehdi Dibaj, who long ago embraced the Christian religion, and has ever since followed his master Christ. For this, and only this, he has been imprisoned for nine years, has recently been threatened with hanging, and has only now, after a worldwide campaign on his behalf, been released.

We shall see what becomes of him, and others in a similar situation. Meanwhile, I seek enlightenment. Why has one of the world's most beautiful and profound religions, Islam, been turned into a monstrous charnel-house of fanaticism, by the people who sought the death of Mehdi Dibaj, and nearly got it? And why do these same people spit in the face of the Prophet (peace be upon him)?

I await answers. But when Mehdi Dibaj was awaiting his fate, he wrote his final testament, addressed to his jailers. I reproduce it here in its entirety.

In the Holy name of God who is our life and existence. With all humility I express my gratitude to the Judge of all heaven and earth for this precious opportunity, and with brokenness I wait upon the Lord to deliver me from this court trial according to His promises. I also beg the honoured members of the court present to listen with patience to my defence and with respect for the Name of the Lord.

I am a Christian, a sinner who believes Jesus has died for my sins on the cross and who by His resurrection and victory over death, has made me righteous in the presence of the Holy God. The true God speaks about this fact in His Holy Word, the Gospel. Jesus means Saviour "because He will save His people from their sins". Jesus paid the penalty of our sins by His own blood and gave us a new life so that we can live for the glory of God by the help of the Holy Spirit and be like a dam against corruption, be a channel of blessing and healing, and be protected by the love of God.

In response to this kindness, He has asked me to deny myself and be His fully surrendered follower, and not fear people even if they kill my body, but rather rely on the creator of life who has crowned me with the crown of mercy and compassion, and who is the great protector of His beloved ones and their great reward.

I have been charged with "Apostasy". The invisible God who knows our hearts has given assurance to us Christians that we are not among the apostates who will perish but among the believers who will save our lives. In Islamic Law an apostate is one who does not believe in God, the prophets or the resurrection of the dead. We Christians believe in all three.

They say "You were a Muslim and you have become a Christian." No, for many years I had no religion. After searching and studying I accepted God's call and I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ in order to receive eternal life. People choose their religion, but a Christian is chosen by Christ. He says "You have not chosen me but I have chosen you." From when? Before the foundation of the world.

People say "You were a Muslim from your birth." God says "You were a Christian from the beginning." He states that He chose us thousands of years ago, even before the creation of the universe, so that through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ we may be His! A Christian means one who belongs to Jesus Christ.

The eternal God who sees the end from the beginning and who has chosen me to belong to Him knew from everlasting how my heart would be drawn to Him and also those who would be willing to sell their faith and eternity for a pot of porridge. I would rather have the whole world against me than know that the Almighty God is with me, be called an apostate but know that I

have the approval of the God of glory, because man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart, and for Him who is God for all eternity nothing is impossible. All power in heaven and on earth is in His hands.

The Almighty God will raise up anyone He chooses and bring down others, accept some and reject others, send some to heaven and others to hell. Now because God does whatever He desires, who can separate us from the love of God? Or who can destroy the relationship between the creator and the creature or defeat a heart that is faithful to His Lord? He will be safe and secure under the shadow of the Almighty!

Our refuge is the mercy seat of God who is called from the beginning, I know in whom I have believed, and He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him to the end, until I reach the Kingdom of God.

They tell me "Return!" But from the arms of my God, whom can I return to? Is it right to accept what people are saying instead of obeying the Word of God? It is now 45 years that I am walking with the God of miracles, and His kindness upon me is like a shadow and I owe Him much for His fatherly love and concern.

The love of Jesus has filled all my being and I feel the warmth of His love in every part of my body. God, who is my glory and honour and protector, has put His seal of approval upon me through His unsparing blessings and miracles.

This test of faith is a clear example: The good and kind God reproves and punishes all those whom He loves. He tests them in preparation for heaven. The God of Daniel, who protected his friends in the fiery furnace, has protected me for nine years in prison, and all the bad happenings have turned out

and space for his latest collecting passion — ties.

An inveterate collector (he began with police truncheons over 30 years ago), McAlpine keeps his necktie collection in a growing number of boxes at home. But his buying is selective, he says: "I am just interested in the designs. They've got to have a powerful image on them."

McAlpine, however, has no designs upon the garish neckwear of his fellow Garrick members. Local Sue Ryder and Oxfam shops are far more rewarding hunting grounds, he says. "I go round all the old clothes shops. Wherever I am travelling, I go into the second-hand clothes places."

His most treasured example is a tie from the Budweiser brewery showing a team of horses pulling a

and space for his latest collecting passion — ties.

One man more than a little surprised by Biggs's view is Jack Slipper, the retired head of the Flying Squad, who so famously failed in his attempt to get Biggs to return from Brazil. "It's the first time I've heard him say that the sentences were appropriate for the crime. It's very strange."

Necks please

LORD McAlpine's rationalisation of his extensive art collection, dubbed "the Cabinet of Curiosities" by Christie's, will leave the former Tory fundraiser with more time

for our good and gain, so much so that I am filled overflowing with joy and thankfulness.

The God of Job has tested my faith and commitment in order to strengthen my patience and faithfulness. During those nine years he has freed me from all my responsibilities so that under the protection of His blessed Name I would spend my time in prayer and study of His Word, with heart searching and brokenness, and grow in the knowledge of my Lord. I praise the Lord for this unique opportunity. "You gave me space in my confinement, my difficult hardships brought healing and your kindnesses revived me". Oh what great blessings God has in store for those who fear Him!

They object to my evangelising. But "If you find a blind person near a well and keep silent then you have sinned" (a Persian poem). It is our religious duty, as long as the door of God's mercy is open, to convince evil-doers to turn from their sinful ways and find refuge in Him in order to be saved from the wrath of a Righteous God and from the coming dreadful punishment.

Jesus Christ says "I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved." "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Among the prophets of God, only Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and He is our living intercessor for ever.

He is our Saviour and He is the Son of God. To know Him means to know eternal life. I, a useless sinner, have believed in His beloved person and all His words and miracles recorded in the Gospel, and I have committed my life into His hands. Life for me is an opportunity to serve Him, and death is a better opportunity to be with Christ. Therefore I am not only satisfied to be in prison for the honour of His Holy Name, but am ready to give my life for the sake of Jesus my Lord and enter His kingdom sooner, the place where the elect of God enter everlasting life, but the wicked to eternal damnation.

May the shadow of God's kindness and His hand of blessing and healing be upon you and remain for ever. Amen.

With respect, Your Christian prisoner, Mehdi Dibaj.

## Clarke's men are massing

Major must beware the left, says Mary

Ann Sieghart

They're behind you! They're behind you! — shout children at a pantomime. Inevitably the leading character looks over the wrong shoulder and fails to see his enemies lurking in the shadows. Today's Tory Party resembles a pantomime not just because of the elements of farce surrounding some ministers' misdemeanours, but because the principal man is looking over his right shoulder instead of his left.

According to conventional political wisdom, it is those on the right who are out to get John Major. And according to some newspapers, he is out to crucify them. In the leadership election of 1990, they thought he was their candidate. Ever since, he has let them down. They see him as a closet liberal who masquerades as a Thatcherite in order to win power. Betrayal is their favourite word.

It is these people whom we hear on the radio and see fulminating on College Green. But the mistake is to assume that they want to see Mr Major fall. They are mere picadors: their aim is to wound the Prime Minister, not to kill him. They want to keep him in the ring machine until their man, Michael Portillo, is fit to take over. By weakening Mr Major, they ensure that he feels compelled both to adopt some of their policies and to keep the so-called "bastards" in his Cabinet.

Had the right wanted Mr Major to go, they would have forced a leadership election last autumn, when they were still "swarming from their Maasticht" wounds. Many considered it, but refrained from doing so because of the likely outcome. They rightly judged Mr Portillo still to be too young; the party was unlikely again to risk giving the job to a man with no experience of running a spending department and little parliamentary track record. Lord Parkinson, one of Mr Portillo's staunchest supporters, still believes his time to be unripe. Any leadership election would have been won by Kenneth Clarke, a man whose Euphorbia and social liberalism do not endear him to the right.

So most of Mr Major's outspoken critics would prefer him to stay on to fight (and probably lose) the next general election, by which time Mr Portillo will be old enough and experienced enough to fly his banner. A few dislike Mr Clarke so much that they would rather see a Labour government than a Tory administration led by him. Some simply see opposition as a well-earned respite during which the party can cure its governing fatigue.

But the Prime Minister would be unwise to take solace from this. For those who are more likely eventually to topple him — the matadors — are not voting their unease on *The World at One*; they are emerging from Westminster, from backbenches and even a few ministers. And it is MPs in the centre and on the left who are the most dangerous.

They worry not about the Prime Minister's views, but about his competence. They were behind him on Maasticht and have been loyal, at least in public, ever since. But they fear now that he has scant hold over his Cabinet or Government, and his mishandling of "back to basics" in the country, if the panic of the past three weeks subsides, and sensible government resumes, they will give him another chance. If, however, he stumbles from one embarrassment to another for the next few months, they will start to plot against him.

The danger for Mr Major is that these MPs are perfectly comfortable with Mr Clarke as leader. Indeed, to many of them he looks immensely attractive. His ideas are fine and his personality puts Mr Major in the shade. If anyone can restore the Conservatives' popularity, they believe, it is he.

Still the question remains whether the party has the stomach for another leadership contest. At the moment, it does not. But the combination of the April tax rises, the May local elections, and the June Euro elections could throw many Tories into a blind panic. In June, the Liberals may steal a whole swath of southern England from the Conservatives, a feat not seen since the general election of 1906. Any Tory MP with a small majority would then be terrified of losing his seat. In these days of career politics, many MPs have no future in the outside world, no job to which they can return. They literally cannot afford to leave Parliament.

In these circumstances, it is easy to envisage the threat to Mr Major. From the constituencies and the backbenches, the smoking-room and the press would come the thrumming chant: "He's got to go." In 1911, Leo Maxse in the *National Review* coined the slogan "BMC — Bal-ly must go." He did, and the Tory Party is still capable of such an uprising, to power, and when power is threatened, it has the capacity to be remarkably ruthless.

No particular MP needs to wield the knife. If enough of them make it known to the whips that they have lost confidence in the Prime Minister, it is the sorry job of the Chief Whip to relay the news. "All chief whips dread it," one former occupant of the job told me. "But very often it's the Prime Minister's best friend who has to come and say, 'I'm sorry, old boy...'"

All this, of course, is but conjecture. Mr Major may get a grip, the economy may blossom, and the May and June election results may be nothing like as bad as feared. In that case, all will be well. But in politics, unlike pantomime, it is rash to rely upon a happy ending.

## Carry on lobbying

AS WESTMINSTER remains gripped by speculation over what was, or was not, said at Gus O'Donnell's leaving do, the position of poor Michael Brunson, ITN's fast-talking political editor, is becoming ever more embarrassing. As the new chairman of the lobby, Brunson's job is to smooth relations between No 10 and the political press corps. Yet wild and unsubstantiated allegations continue in circulation.

Journalists excluded from last Thursday's Downing Street dinner are insinuating that Brunson was overheard saying that Major had told guests that he wanted to "\*\*\*\*\* crucify" Cabinet right-wingers — an allegation totally denied by everyone at No 10, from John Major downwards. Brunson, who was seen talking to a *Sun* journalist at the Commons taxi-rank after the dinner, equally denies being the source.

As lobby chairman, Brunson yesterday had to sit through two long interrogations of a railed O'Donnell by lobby journalists. Informed sources, as they say, relay that both men looked hard-pressed to maintain their customary composure. Brunson was previously embarrassed last year by the fuss after off-the-cuff com-

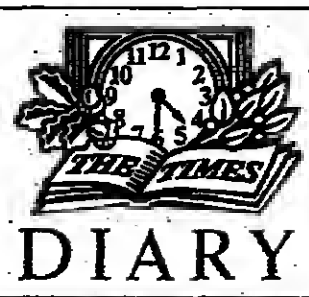
ments by Major about trouble-some "bastards".

And, by one of those little coincidences of political life, as the lobby members dribbled out of No 10 yesterday after the 11 o'clock briefing with O'Donnell, who should they bump into but Chris Meyer, O'Donnell's successor. First to leap on him was Brunson. Only inviting him to lunch.

● The Queen's fall, thankfully, was not serious but it nevertheless highlights the dangers of royal horse-riding. William of Orange, for instance, died in 1702 from just such a fall, when his horse tripped on a mole-hill in the grounds of Hampton Court. A broken collarbone gave rise to a lung infection which eventually proved terminal. "Catholics have blessed the little man in brown velvet ever since," says a Hampton Court spokesman — somewhat tactlessly.

Lords of the dance

TUTUS are twirling backstage at Covent Garden, where a job vacancy has just appeared on the company noticeboard. The advertisement seeks applicants by the end of the month for one of the most important jobs in English



ballet: a replacement for Sir Peter Wright, director of the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Birmingham Royal, which was born out of the old Sadlers Wells company in 1990, refuses to say who it has in mind. But others are less restrained. One possible successor is Jay Jolley, a former principal with the Royal Ballet who now works with the Birmingham as an administrative assistant. Another is David Bintley, who resigned as choreographer of both royal ballet companies but, more recently, is felt to have choreographed his way back into favour.

Maina Gielgud, artistic director of the Australian Ballet, who has lately been experiencing difficulty with rebellious dancers, could seize the chance to return to England. And Galina Samasova, artistic director of the Scottish Ballet, is hotly opposed. But Derek Purnell, administrator of the Birmingham

Royal Ballet, is keeping his French chalk dry. "The notices have only just been circulated, but if any of these people applied, they would be strong contenders."

### Fair cop

RONNIE BIGGS may have spent too much time in the Brazilian sun. To the surprise of many, the great train robber has come to the conclusion that the 30-year sentence he received for his part in the raid was about right.

In his latest version of events, *Odd Man Out*, published this week, Biggs recalls the reaction to the long custodial term: "Some thought the punishment was too harsh and there were those who thought the 30-year sentences fitted the crime. I am one."

One man more than a little surprised by Biggs's view is Jack Slipper, the retired head of the Flying Squad, who so famously failed in his attempt to get Biggs to return from Brazil. "It's the first time I've heard him say that the sentences were appropriate for the crime. It's very strange."

### Necks please

LORD McAlpine's rationalisation of his extensive art collection, dubbed "the Cabinet of Curiosities" by Christie's, will leave the former Tory fundraiser with more time

and space for his latest collecting passion — ties.

An inveterate collector (he began with police truncheons over 30 years ago), McAlpine keeps his necktie collection in a growing number of boxes at home. But his buying is selective, he says: "I am just interested in the designs. They've got to have a powerful image on them."

McAlpine, however, has no designs upon the garish neckwear of his fellow Garrick members. Local Sue Ryder and Oxfam shops are far more rewarding hunting grounds, he says. "I go round all the old clothes shops. Wherever I am travelling, I go into the second-hand clothes places."

His most treasured example is a tie from the Budweiser brewery showing a team of horses pulling a

and space for his latest collecting passion — ties.

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Necks please

LORD McAlpine's rationalisation of his extensive art collection, dubbed "the Cabinet of Curiosities" by Christie's, will leave the former Tory fundraiser with more time

dry piled with barrels of beer. "And I've also got a Ford spare parts tie too — picked 'em up in America."

● It was only a matter of time. The Armathwaite Hall Hotel in Keswick, Cumbria is offering a "return to traditional values" weekend — for married couples only. Old-fashioned luxuries such as freshly ironed morning papers, evening dress codes, old sirgences for tipping and ancient copies of *Punch* come with a far from traditional price of £155 for a two-day stay.

### Housing ministers

A SELECT band of politicians has been appalled to read scurrilous tales about Teresa Gorman's property deals. For she remains the MP's favourite landlady.

The effervescent Billericay MP has provided beds (and nothing else) for temporarily homeless MPs in her home in Lord North Street. While some of her tenants share her right-wing views — such as EC-sceptic Sir Teddy Taylor and Employment Minister Michael Forsyth — ideology apparently plays no part in her generosity. The Liberal Democrat MP Menzies Campbell remains good pals with his former landlady. "It was very easy, straightforward — and most convenient for the House."



## THE NEW BRITISHNESS

The nation faces graver threats than cynicism

John Major's appearance before the Scott Tribunal yesterday was a cruel metaphor for the collective inquisition which has rocked the government in recent weeks. The prime minister's compass continues to swing. It is Michael Portillo, rather than Mr. Major, who has offered the decisive way forward for the Conservatives in the last few days.

The Chief Secretary's speech to the Conservative Way Forward group on Friday was both thought-provoking and flawed. The current mood of national pessimism, Mr Portillo claimed, was the fault of a liberalite of "so-called sophisticates" in politics, academia, journalism and the Church. From newspaper offices to ivory towers, cynical opinion-formers were denigrating Britain, its achievements and its institutions. His assault on national self-confidence, he declared, was "one of the greatest threats it has ever confronted the British nation".

Mr Portillo has not yet proved himself a populist. His intent seems so far to be critical — to forge an alliance of nervous unservative politicians dedicated to the defence of national morale: a banner under which those who believe in national sovereignty or moral regeneration can march with those who support the minimal state. He Disraeli, Mr Portillo — the son of a Jewish immigrant — assumes the role of former outsider who seeks to explain and form the established order he has joined. The thesis that liberal philosophy has used damage to British society is neither so contentious. None would deny that newspapers can be irresponsible and can give insufficient coverage to good news. But, this is a vice, newspapers are far from one in perpetrating it. Many of those most actively denigrating the performance of the nation recently have been Conservative ministers, especially those from Mr Portillo's own wing of the party.

Nor is it clear that the angry pessimism of radical right has been politically healthy. One of the most pernicious stures of socialism has been its tendency to replace unpalatable truth in attractive lies: no-dy could accuse Arthur Scargill of being a

pessimist about the future of coal. In contrast, there has always been a robust pessimistic streak within Conservatism which distrusts idealism and allows for the encroachments of human imperfection.

Mr Portillo might reply that contempt for oneself is different from self-criticism and that Britain, once a nation of confident complacency, has become a nation of self-hatred. There is some truth in this. The difficulty for Mr Portillo is that the Conservative government of the last 14 years cannot escape responsibility for the change. With its ethos of competition and comparison — epitomised by public service league tables — politicians have encouraged citizens to scrutinise the institutions that serve them. The effect is paradoxical. Standards rise, but so too do knowledge, expectations, dissatisfaction and disappointment.

That is not the only paradox. Mr Portillo made a call for the return to hierarchy, drawn from *Troilus and Cressida*: "Take but degree away," he warned, "untune that string. And hark what discord follows". Deference may, indeed, be a fine ideal: society must have a proper grounding in order. But the mediaeval mystery of Shakespeare's chain-of-being cannot be recreated by ministerial fiat. Those who exercise power can no longer claim deference as a right; they must earn respect by their actions and leadership. This, the government has failed to do. Mr Portillo's suggestion that Churchill would be shown little respect today was a mere rhetorical trope.

More substantial was his claim that Britons dimly perceive the strength draining from their nation. Mr Portillo is right: that Britain has coped erratically with "the disappointments of peace"; that the movements of political power to Europe has cultural implications far beyond the narrowly constitutional aspects; and that we ridicule national institutions such as the monarchy at our peril. The current mood of national self-doubt cannot be addressed without a comprehensive debate on Britishness itself. It is to Mr Portillo's credit that he has made this point at so appropriate a time.

## INTO THE UNKNOWN

Signor Ciampi has given Italy a fresh start

In the past eight months, as most Italians dutifully acknowledge, Italy has been re-governed more than for years. Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the former governor of Italy's central bank who took over last April as caretaker prime minister, has transformed the country's electoral and administrative structures, overhauled its runaway budget and imposed deep structural reforms. With much still to be done to consolidate Italy's finances, reduce its enormous public debt, mandate the corporate state inherited from fascism and cope with the resulting unemployment, many Italians would like Signor Ciampi to stay in the Palazzo Chigi. Yet the prime minister and the president, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, have been right to insist on calling a general election now, rather than wait until midsummer, as they are urged by many of Italy's discredited political old guard. In municipal elections last year, the rotten pillars of the old order, the Christian Democrats and the Socialists, lapsed. The March elections are expected to sweep away all but a handful of the old school of politicians, for the good reason that most of them inspire nothing but disgust among the voters: a third are under investigation for corruption, fraud and worse.

Signor Ciampi's pledge when he took office in the thick of the corruption scandals keeping every national institution was to carry Italy from the old to the new. With President Scalfaro's strong support he has the crossing stones in place, restoring the state's lost authority with the electorate in the process. But only when the voters actually tread them, even if to an exceptionally uncertain future, can Italy start to become a "normal" democracy.

The new electoral laws are an essential step towards decent government. They largely dispense with a system of proportional representation based on party lists which has given Italy 52 revolving-door coalitions since the war and made for country's electoral and administrative structures, overhauled its runaway budget and imposed deep structural reforms. With much still to be done to consolidate Italy's finances, reduce its enormous public debt, mandate the corporate state inherited from fascism and cope with the resulting unemployment, many Italians would like Signor Ciampi to stay in the Palazzo Chigi. Yet the prime minister and the president, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, have been right to insist on calling a general election now, rather than wait until midsummer, as they are urged by many of Italy's discredited political old guard. In municipal elections last year, the rotten pillars of the old order, the Christian Democrats and the Socialists, lapsed. The March elections are expected to sweep away all but a handful of the old school of politicians, for the good reason that most of them inspire nothing but disgust among the voters: a third are under investigation for corruption, fraud and worse.

In practice, voters will be confronted by hastily assembled coalitions, of groups rather than fully-fledged parties, whose electoral platforms are temporary, tactical, constructs. Support for the neo-fascists and the separatist Northern League may not hold up in national elections; both are now seeking allies and a less ideological, more workman-like image. But a centrist challenge has yet to emerge to the "progressive" coalition being forged by the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), the name Italy's Communists chose when they broke with Marxism in 1991. The centre's best hope may lie with the Pact for Italy proposed by Mario Segni, the former Christian Democrat who led the popular movement for political reform. But it published its programme only last week.

Reform may thus usher into power the party, albeit reborn, which for half a century Italians were so determined to keep out of office that, in a famous phrase, they "held their noses and voted Christian Democrat". Achille Occhetto, the PDS leader, talks today rather like Milton Friedman. Italians may soon discover whether he acts as he sounds. If he does not, at least they will be able to vote him out in five years' time.

## RECAGING THE ZOO

Other animals can have a useful home in the centre of London

When a man knows he is to be hanged in a night, it is said to concentrate his mind wonderfully. Nothing concentrates the survival instinct of an ancient institution more in the prospect of its imminent closure. Yesterday the London Zoo started work on a £1 million redevelopment of its children's enclosure. The original children's enclosure, a first such fenced and feathered theme park in the world, was opened in 1938. The purpose was to give city children contact with animals other than humans and their ban pets. It was the place for them to see their milk came from, stroke nibbling cats and observe chimpanzees taking tea. But less than two years ago, the Zoological Society of London, faced with a deficit of £2 million, voted to close the whole zoo because falling revenues and rising costs. The redevelopment plan, which had come to the rescue of the zoo with a final grant of £10 million, said at there would be no more public money. Fashionable opinion was abroad that wild parks, increased affluence and modern starks for caging animals had made the zoo irrelevant as well as politically incorrect. Since then, the zoo has redefined what it is doing, and turned its finances around. From Victorian ambition of being a comprehensive urban menagerie for all the fauna in the world, it has narrowed its focus to being an

ark for endangered species, and a living introduction for children to the wonder of animals. A gift of £1 million from the Emir of Kuwait, and increased gate receipts following the prospect of closure have helped the zoo to climb out of the red. It made a small surplus last year for the first time in 15 years, and expects, at worst, to break even this year. The redevelopment of the children's zoo, started yesterday, financed by a private donation, is the next step in the zoo's revival.

In any modern zoo, there is necessary tension between science and showmanship. In London this has been personalised into a battle between "suits and beards": the new managers who want to turn a loss-making and old-fashioned enterprise into profit, and the keepers who care for the well-being of their animals. The London zoo's ten-year redevelopment plan, which will cost £21 million, is an enterprising example of institutional evolution. London, which kept one of the first menageries in the world in its Tower, needs its zoo even in this age of game parks and wild life films. Education and conservation are more important than ever. So is the opportunity for children to see and touch animals. With good management, lions should still roar in Regent's Park. Wild life, the natural example and contrast for city life, should stay in the heart of London.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Public cynicism on 'back to basics'

From Rabbi Dr Charles H. Middleburgh

Sir, It is an act of breathtaking arrogance, even for Mr Michael Portillo, to blame the mood in the country at present on a "sick elite" of journalists, academics and clerics (report, January 13).

I believe that he could hardly be more wrong. In my experience, the pervasive sense of anger, despair and betrayal of which he complains is felt by people at all social levels and in every type of work.

If there is cynicism around, it is merely a reflection of that with which this Government has treated the political process and the electorate who put it into office in the first place.

Yours sincerely,  
CHARLES H. MIDDLEBURGH,  
326 Preston Road,  
Harrow, Middlesex,  
January 16.

From Professor Jonathan Shepherd

Sir, The reactions to the murder of the Liverpool toddler, James Bulger, and to the adulterous affair of Tim Yeo are clear examples, if any were needed, of the innate sense of right and wrong among the electors. The national conscience has been pricked by these events.

It is a laudable objective for any government to head and reinforce this conscience. Public policy will be incoherent and shallow if it takes account only of what is street-wise and economically sound. Indeed, it would be negligent for our elected representatives not to express our collective outrage, contrition and fervent determination to put things right.

This is for the good of society, to prevent wrong, whether truancy, violence or adultery, and to ensure that when we go astray, we get the support and rehabilitation we need. Conscience and a moral code go hand in hand and it is hypocritical for citizens or government to deny it.

"Back to basics" may not have been about individual morality in its conception but it certainly is now. The people will not have it otherwise.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN SHEPHERD,  
11 Church Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff,  
January 16.

From Mr Kenneth Morgan

Sir, Lord St John of Fawley (letter, January 11) and Peter Riddell (article of the same date) have reminded us of the ridiculous nature of the public's periodical fits of morality. Perhaps the way is now clear to recall another earlier, memorable and relevant aphorism, Cobbett's:

No man has a right to pry into his neighbour's private concerns, and the opinions of every man are his private concern, while he keeps them so... but when he once attempts to make converts, whether it be in religion, politics or anything else, when once he comes forward as a candidate for public admiration, esteem or compassion, his opinions, his principles, his motives, every action of his life, public or private, becomes the fair subject of public discussion.

Macaulay's view of the public's (and the press's) attitude to Byron stands as shrewd and fair. The first part of Cobbett's comment, from *Observations on the Emigration of Dr Priestley*, still offers decent ethical advice to editors: the second a still timely warning to politicians.

Yours etc,  
KENNETH MORGAN  
(Director, The Press Council, 1980-90),  
151 Overhill Road, Dulwich, SE22,  
January 11.

From Mrs Guy Gravett

Sir, Whilst all good Christians will support Miss Silvia Pearson's robust affirmation of the value of the Cross (letter, January 14), they and all those of other faiths in this country should note the value of the cross with which we register our vote at the polling booth.

Yours faithfully,  
HELEN GRAVETT,  
Hope Lodge, Hassocks Road,  
Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.

From Dr Laurence Martin

Sir, In your leading article of January 10, "Collective conscience", you say that "the morality or immorality of various sexual acts can be returned to where it belongs: the individual heart".

I disagree. It is precisely because morality is now conveniently held by so many to be a personal matter that concepts of right and wrong have ceased to have meaning as a basis for sexual or other codes of conduct.

Yours faithfully,  
LAURENCE MARTIN,  
17 Watery Lane, Merton Park, SW20,  
January 10.

From Mr Geoff Rayner

Sir, The expression "back to basics" gathers meaning by the day. We now find that the top industrial sector for new jobs last year (report, January 11) is "domestic service". Back in the very basic 1920s and 1930s, domestic service was the largest sector of employment. Perhaps we are returning to those days. Is this what the Prime Minister means, or intends?

Yours sincerely,  
GEOFF RAYNER  
(Chair),  
The Public Health Alliance,  
138 Digbeth, Birmingham 5.

### Bryn Melyn help for problem boys

From Mrs Elisabeth Barrett

Sir, I have followed your reporting of the Bryn Melyn community farm controversy with a great deal of concern. I am delighted to read (January 13) that the lad at the heart of it is now back on the farm, instead of in prison, and with "a new buzz in life". Indeed, how could it be otherwise?

There was a worrying moment when you reported that Gloucestershire County Council had warned Bryn Melyn to pay more heed to public opinion. Even on the grounds of cost I would query the wisdom of this: public opinion has its insightful moments, but for the past 30 years it has been notoriously wrong-headed on the subject of raising children, let alone on what to do with them if and when they turn out "difficult".

Your earlier report on the boys of Bryn Melyn ("Africa weird and stupid, says youth sent on safari", January 6) made it clear that these are youngsters who come from highly unsatisfactory homes, possibly beaten and abused from babyhood, and with

no faith left in human kindness. May I suggest that the authorities, from government down, stick to their principles and leave Bryn Melyn to do what it obviously does superbly well: that is, continue to turn out good, happy, and responsible citizens, and future parents, from apparently hopeless cases, while they, the authorities, concentrate on families — alleviating conditions of stress, educating for good parenting, etc.

Too many families are problems themselves; here is the root of our problem children. Expensive Bryn Melyn may be, but it is meeting a need that should have been recognised years ago or better still, never been allowed to arise. It is still far less costly (in far more than monetary terms alone) than a life in and out of prison.

In the light of the James Bulger tragedy, Bryn Melyn is something we really cannot afford to be without.

Yours sincerely,  
ELISABETH BARRETT,  
45 Cliff Road, Hornsea, Humberside.

### Floods in the South

From Councillor C. J. M. Marshall

Sir, You have published several letters (January 10, 11, 17) about the floods in the South of England. The cause of the initial flooding at Barnham, West Sussex, which created misery for scores of residents was plastic sheeting carried down Lidsley Rise to a key culvert near Barnham station, where it lodged in a steel grille. The weight and volume of water prevented its clearance. The effect was immediate and catastrophic.

Should it not be made a serious offence to fail properly to secure plastic sheeting, old fertiliser bags, bins, etc. so that it is less likely that these materials will foul waterways at times of very heavy rainfall?

Yours faithfully,  
C. J. M. MARSHALL  
(Chairman, Planning and Housing Committee),  
Arum District Council,  
The Arum Civic Centre,  
Maltravers Road,  
Littlehampton, West Sussex,  
January 17.

From Mr Graham Satterfield

Sir, The National Rivers Authority has suggested that here in Kent we are short of water (report, January 5). Two letters (January 10) attributed this opinion to my company. The county of Kent has in recent months "enjoyed" similar weather to that in the remainder of the country and the recent rain has indeed fallen here. As the prin-

cipal water supply company in the South of England, we are most certainly not suggesting that insufficient rain has fallen on our county.

Our water stocks are excellent, reservoirs are full, leakage is down, investment is up and our water supply position is the best for a decade. I find it insensitive in the extreme for the NRA to suggest that a drought continues when many of our customers are having to dry out their homes after flooding.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM SATTERFIELD  
(Deputy Managing Director),  
Southern Water Services,  
Southern House, Capstone Road,  
Chatham, Kent,  
January 14.

From Mr P. F. Bentley

Sir, Mr Clive Thomas (letter, January 10) attempts to draw parallels between British Rail's "wrong" type of snow for its trains and the National Rivers Authority's "wrong" type of rain for the drought-stricken aquifers of Kent. Whilst the former could be regarded as a design omission, may I suggest that responsibility for the inadequate permeability of Kent and its failure fully to absorb the recent deluges lies not with the NRA but with a much higher Authority.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL BENTLEY,  
21 Partridge Drive,  
Orrington, Kent,  
January 11.

### Care of monuments

From Ms Jo Darke

Sir, Alas, Britain has no national guidelines for the proper restoration and maintenance of its monumental art. The artistic value and historical importance of a piece is no guarantee that it will receive appropriate care, and advice sought from the relevant experts is not always acted on.

The dilemma which this presents to conservators, particularly of our largely neglected corpus of metal or stone public monuments dating from the 19th century, is acute. That is one of the reasons why the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association is embarking upon a national recording project to catalogue all public monuments and sculptures in the British Isles. The project committee includes representatives of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and of other national and regional institutions.

### Nut allergies

From Mrs Janet Cook

Sir, You report (January 7) the effects of allergy to peanuts and a call for food contents to be listed. It is not just peanuts that cause violent reactions.

Our daughter, at present at university, causes us constant concern because whilst she can tolerate peanuts and almonds, all other nuts, especially walnuts, produce the same symptoms in her as in peanut-allergy sufferers.

Although she carries a throat spray, we live in fear that one day she might unknowingly eat something which would not be thought to contain nuts but which could prove fatal to her.

The campaign to seek food labelling should not be restricted to peanuts.

Yours faithfully,  
JANET COOK,  
48 Woodcote Green Road,  
Epsom, Surrey,  
January 7.

### Car boot sales

From Mr Kenneth Rubens

Sir, Mr Simon Wood's suggestion (letter, January 13) that the police preview exhibits at car boot sales is not so far-fetched. In France, even at small jumble sales, by law all stall-holders have to submit to the local police a list of every item being displayed for sale. This is followed up by a visit to all the stalls by a local policeman in order to check that stolen goods are not being offered for sale.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH RUBENS,  
104 Wigmore Street, W1,  
January 13.

### Bodybelt restraints

From Mrs Barbara Roche, MP for Hornsey and Wood Green (Labour)

Sir, As your item "Gardner death ends gagging of deportees" (report and illustration, January 13) makes clear, this tragic incident will unfortunately not end the use of the kind of bodybelt you depict.

My constituent, Joy Gardner, was alone with her young son when police and immigration officers arrived early in the morning to attempt to deport her.

By then, after they had used a gag and bodybelt on her, she was in a local hospital. She never regained consciousness.

It is of course good news that gagging has now been banned by the Home Office. But bodybelts — reminiscent of the instruments of slavery — are inhuman and should also be banned. In answer to a parliamentary question the Home Office minister, Charles Wardle, told me yesterday that bodybelts were not used in any police station last year.

If police officers can deal with violent criminals without the use of these abhorrent devices I see no reason why deportees should be treated any less humanely.

Yours sincerely,  
BARBARA ROCHE,  
House of Commons,  
January 13.

Business letters, page 27

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

### Police Bill 'threat to democracy'

From Sir John Smith, President of the Association of Chief Police Officers

Sir, On Tuesday, January 18, the House of Lords begins debating the Police and Magistrates' Courts Bill, which, if implemented, threatens to undermine the nature of policing as a locally delivered service. Its apolitical status and links with local democracy are mainstays which legitimise our role. Severing those ties would be constitutionally, an extremely dangerous step.

The Bill proposes to allow the Home Secretary to appoint almost a third of the members of a police authority, as well as the chairman or woman. This provides government with the power to exercise control over the police.

Depleting the elected membership of police authorities means fewer representatives will be forced through the ballot box to be sensitive and sympathetic to local people's needs. Dictation from Whitehall, whether direct or indirect, could lead to the present strength of policing being heavily compromised.

Serious concerns aroused by the Bill's constitutional implications are not, I believe, intended by the Government. British policing is a paradigm admired across the globe and we change it at our peril.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN SMITH,  
President,  
Association of Chief Police Officers,  
New Scotland Yard, Broadway, SW1,  
January 14.

### Flywheel car dangers

From Eur Ing Francis O. J. Otway

Sir, Your technology correspondent is clearly impressed by the flywheel battery-driven AF520 car unveiled at the Los Angeles Auto Show — "an electric car that may break the dominance of the internal combustion engine" (report, January 3).

Two questions need to be answered about this very interesting development, however.

What happens to the energy stored as inertia in the flywheel if the car should be involved in an accident where the flywheel casing has been damaged? And what is the effect of gyroscopic forces on the car, arising from the flywheel, if the car should be involved in a tight voluntary or involuntary turn?

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCIS O. J. OTWAY,  
Corvara, Cotswold Mead,  
Painwick, Stroud, Gloucestershire,  
January 3.

### School discipline

From Mr M. G. Fischer

Sir, I look forward to receiving the Secretary of State's new advice on discipline in schools (report, January 5), and understand that it is concentrated into just over 200 pages. Five years ago his predecessor, Kenneth Baker, sent the 292-page Elton report, "Discipline in Schools", into all schools in England and Wales.

It prompted me to read again the "Rules for the Better Management of the Charity School in Dover" dated July 1789, of which this school is the successor, and found that the rules for the punishment and expulsion of children take up just over 200 words.

Yours respectfully,  
MICHAEL FISCHER  
(Head Teacher),  
St Mary's C of E Primary School,  
Laureston Place, Dover, Kent,  
January 5.

### Classics that sell

From Sir Bryan Askew

Sir, Whilst agreeing with Stephen Abrams (letter, January 12) about being irritated by the advertisements on Classic FM, I would not accept that they should be read by staff announcers. If so, the brilliant West Indies Tourist Board advertisement featuring the late Brian Johnston would have been denied to us.

Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN ASKEW,  
27 Golf Links Avenue,  
Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.

### Person in the street

From Mr Nicholas Bacon

Sir, Instead of "the man on the Clapham omnibus" (letters, January 6, 12), soon we may all be saying: "The man on the Channel shuttle" — or even: "L'homme qui voyage dans le train sous la Manche."

Yours faithfully,  
N. M. BACON,  
East Cote, East Street,  
Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex,  
January 12.

From Mrs G. M. McKinley

Sir, Perhaps these days "person in the street" should be taken a little more literally — "the person in the cardboard box on the Embankment", for example?

Yours faithfully,  
GILLIAN MCKINLEY,  
49 Old Brookside,  
Yardley Fields Road,  
Stechford, Birmingham 33,  
January 12.

Jan 18 1994











## NEWS

## Los Angeles quake causes havoc

A violent earthquake shook Los Angeles yesterday, killing at least 16 people, bucking highways, wrecking thousands of homes and sparking hundreds of fires that left the city shrouded in black smoke.

The quake, which struck the San Fernando Valley northwest of the city at 4.31am, was the worst in southern California for forty years, measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale. About three million people felt the impact. Pages 1, 14

## Major denies export knowledge

John Major yesterday attempted to distance himself from the arms-to-Iraq affair by telling Lord Justice Scott's enquiry that although he had three of the highest offices of state he was never fully briefed by officials about any changes in the Government's arms export policy. Pages 1, 7

## Queen in plaster

The Queen has broken her left wrist in a fall from a horse at Sandringham. Page 1

## Hospital blunder

Two 15-year-old pupils were asked to stitch the wounds of hospital patients after being mistaken for medical students during work experience. Page 1

## Tax net widens

About 400,000 people will be drawn into the tax net in April because of the government decision to freeze tax allowances in the last two Budgets. Page 1

## Hurd 'to stay'

Douglas Hurd gave John Major a boost by denying that he is planning to leave the government this year. Page 2

## Video evidence

A High Court jury was shown a tape of actress Gillian Taylor playing with a German sausage and a bottle. Page 3

## Mother's 'revenge'

A mother exacted her own roundabout retribution after charges were dropped against a pensioner accused of sexually molesting her four-year old daughter a court was told. Page 3

## Cocaine seized

Customs and police investigators using a "sting operation" yesterday seized cocaine worth £50 million. Page 5

## U-boat 'surfaced for extra milk rations'

German U-boat sailors thirsty for fresh milk apparently invaded New Zealand during the Second World War, sneaking into a farmer's field to raid his dairy herd. The story has all the elements of a classic wartime drama: a U-boat with a fearless captain, night landings using an inflatable dinghy, and the clandestine milking of pedigree cows. Page 13

## Air crash 'cover-up'

The official report into an air crash in the Himalayas which killed 167 people, 35 of them Britons, is being kept secret, an inquest was told. Page 5

## Malaysia aid claim

John Major has been named by a civil servant as authorising an "unequivocally unsound" aid deal to Malaysia. Page 8

## Doctors' bonus

Four London GP practices are due to share £1 million after making big savings on their hospital care budgets. Page 9

## City badger bouts

Badger-baiting contests drawing thousands of pounds in bets are held in central London, says Scotland Yard. Page 11

## Pumping dispute

A Kent water firm is facing a challenge in the European courts over its right to pump water from underground wells. Page 11

## UN tensions

As the Bosnian peace talks resume in Geneva, there are reports of growing friction between the United Nations commander and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Secretary-General. Page 12

## Resignation accepted

President Yeltsin accepted the resignation of Yegor Gaidar, his Economics Minister, but said reforms would go on. Page 13



A Palestinian policeman, right, hugging an Egyptian colleague during the graduation of 52 Palestinians from Cairo Police Academy

## Lloyds: Gooda Walker names

rejected the Lloyd's offer, sounding a death knell for the insurance market's attempt to stop a flood of litigation. Page 23

Bankers: Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England, said banks and their small business customers are equally to blame for the breakdown in their relationship during the recession. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 7.2 points to close at 3,407.8. The trade-weighted index stayed at 82.7 despite a rise from \$1.4915 to \$1.4922 and from DM2.6116 to DM2.6191. Page 26

## Cricket: A superb century by John

Crawley helped England A bat to draw their match with Orange Free State. Page 40

Tennis: Jim Courier, the defending champion, was taken to five sets by Bryan Shelton, a fellow American, in the first round of the Australian Open in Melbourne but won 4-6, 6-1, 6-7, 6-2, 6-4. Page 42

Football: Terry Venables, who is favourite to be named next manager of England, must await a Premier League commission of enquiry today that is investigating alleged financial irregularities at Tottenham Hotspur. Page 44

## Who does what: 'Britain as a News

of the World-style' hotbed of carefree promiscuity is not at all the picture that emerges here. 'Margot Norman reports on Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles. Page 16

Risky review: Sarcasm can damage your health. So can bickering, disapproval, or long-term fighting with your partner. Kate Muir on disagreements. Page 17

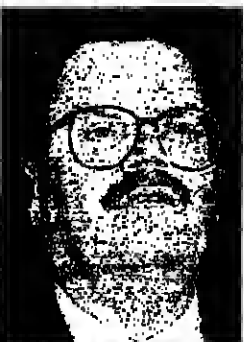
Noises off: A law to silence the nocturnal wailing of the rogue car alarm has come into effect. Lawyers predict it will fail. Page 37

## Too much of a good thing: The

interest generated by the discovery of 200 'lost' drawings by Modigliani ensured plenty of publicity for the Royal Academy's 'Unknown Modigliani' exhibition. But, says Richard Clark, a better edited selection would have produced a more tracing show. Page 31

Hemming it up: Leslie Megahey's 'The Hour of the Pig' is the latest in a 'rasher' of films to have turned pigs into stars. Page 32

Master adapter: Mike Alfreds is unoriginal, and proud of it. He has built a career out of adapting novels for the stage. Page 33



Tom Hardy, Sinn Féin's national chairman, said in London that the government's first meeting with the IRA was in 1990, not 1993. Page 2



Katarina Witt could finish only third in her qualifying group at the European ice skating championships in Copenhagen. Page 44



Goodwill Zwelithini, the king of the Zulus, met President de Klerk in Pretoria to discuss difficulties arising from the April 27 election. Page 12

## THE TIMES TOMORROW

## Cutting edge

In a year of Fleet Street price cuts, which newspapers were the winners and which the losers? Brian MacArthur reports

## Corporate golf challenge

A 16-page tabloid supplement to mark the launch of the second *The Times* corporate golf challenge, Britain's only competition aimed specifically at the business community

## Broadway blues

Against all the odds, the New York theatre scene is proving — yet again — that reports of its death are premature

Margaret Best spent 24 years fighting for justice for her handicapped son, who suffered brain damage after a whooping cough jab. Their struggle is told in *Margaret's Story* (BBC, 8pm). Page 43

## The new Britishness

The current mood of national self-doubt cannot be addressed without a comprehensive debate on Britishness itself. It is to Michael Portillo's credit that he has made this point so vividly. Page 19

## Into the unknown

Italy's prime minister and president have been right to insist on a general election now. Page 19

## Recaging the zoo

London Zoo has redefined what it is doing, and turned its finances around. Page 19

## BERNARD LEVIN

Why has one of the world's most beautiful religions, Islam, been turned into a monstrous charnel-house of fanaticism? Page 18

## MARY ANN SIEGHART

The MPs who are the most dangerous to John Major are those in the centre and on the left of the party. They worry not about the Prime Minister's views, but about his competence. Page 18

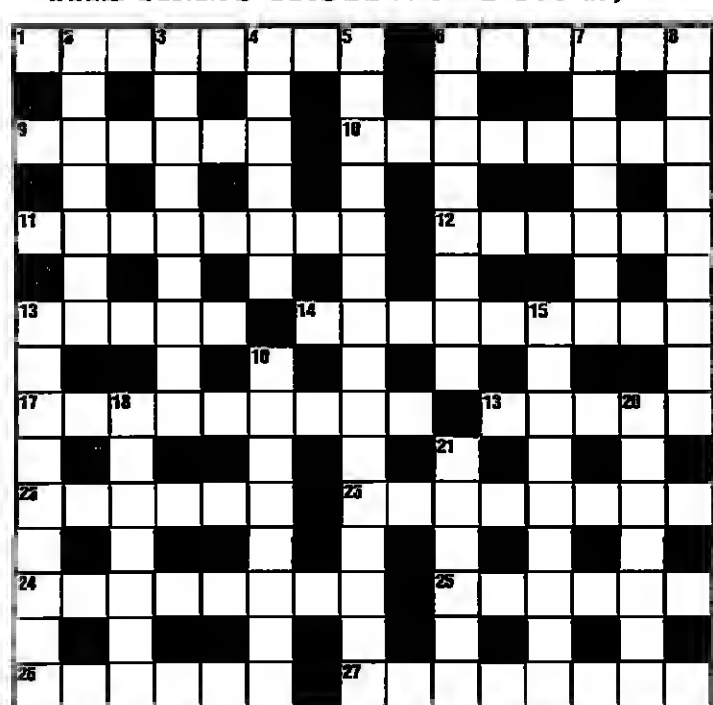
Professor Sir David Bates, physicist; Sir Ivor Baker, engineer and iron founder; Louise Seolberg, modern dance pioneer; Stanley Hall, theatre wig-maker and make-up artist. Page 21

In defence of Bryn Mefyn community farm. Page 19

For many fans, figure skating was the last of the innocent big-time sports — a place where athletes and their supporters would alter nuptials. Now, that trust is lost. — *USA Today*

Why is it that community service is food for the children of the middle class, and it is all right to suggest making their college loans dependent on it, but somehow community service is too much to ask of the poor in exchange for the assistance the community is giving them? — *The Washington Times*

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,442



- ACROSS**
- Not appropriate to a person in care (8).
  - Packing in sport (6).
  - Kitchen equipment worthy of more note, they say (6).
  - Ignores a dubious order (8).
  - Beat and scold angrily, resulting in distress (8).
  - Pub in tropical capital (6).
  - Party in the back bar (5).
  - Patrons find second bit of decay in horizontal beams in church (9).
  - Leading Conservative unfortunately uninvited (9).
  - Ultimately many have a violent animus, for this poet (5).
  - Delicious drink lying around in locker at Central Station (6).
  - Praise a book the Opium Eater would have liked (8).
- DOWN**
- Report circulating — extraterrestrial landed on Scottish isle (7).
  - Party in the back bar (5).
  - Improving other people in upright surroundings (2,3,4).
  - Current in a widened stretch of river (6).
  - Make every effort to excel, following Carver's elevation (2,4,5,4).
  - Fairground ride is not a weighable contraption (3,5).
  - Take off from Italian capital, and marry outside Italy (7).
  - Celebrity estranges constituents (9).
  - Arcane ritual gripping subordinate after the head has gone (9).
  - One who treats the criminal (9).
  - Sign of contempt about a smug circular (8).
  - Garment said to be worth a few pounds (7).
  - One has to accept an upset in the wake of an earthquake (7).
  - Count more dead (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,441

STEPSISTER EDIT  
O A U P N I R  
HORNBLAND ASIA  
O N C E U N O  
BORDERCOLMIE  
A I N A N A M  
MINUTEQU ERICA  
O L I J G W G  
ALLEN BEESTREAK  
B S E B E R S  
INCONVENIENT  
L R T R N T S B  
L I T E R B I E N T I A L L Y  
T E S E A A R  
V E R T I S H O R T L I V E D

Times Two Crossword, page 44

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

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Greater London & Wales	708
Greater London & Northern Ireland	709
Greater London & Overseas	710
Greater London & Antarctica	711
Greater London & Space	712
Greater London & Time	713
Greater London & Weather	714
Greater London & Other	715
Greater London & Misc	716
Greater London & Index	717
Greater London & Total	718
Greater London & Average	719
Greater London & Range	720
Greater London & Spread	721
Greater London & Difference	722
Greater London & Sum	723
Greater London & Product	724
Greater London & Quotient	725
Greater London & Remainder	726
Greater London & Power	727
Greater London & Root	728
Greater London & Log	729
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Greater London & Cosecant	750

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Greater London & Yorkshire	707
Greater London & Wales	708
Greater London & Northern Ireland	709
Greater London & Overseas	710
Greater London & Antarctica	711
Greater London & Space	712
Greater London & Time	713
Greater London & Weather	714
Greater London & Other	715
Greater London & Misc	716
Greater London & Index	717
Greater London & Total	718
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# Two accountants fined £1,500 each for insider dealing

By A CORRESPONDENT

TWO chartered accountants were yesterday found guilty of insider dealing on the Stock Exchange. The pair walked free after a judge fined them £1,500 each, though the maximum sentence for insider dealing is seven years' imprisonment.

Ian Morrissey, 37, and Lorelie Staines, 39, persuaded others to buy a total of 17,000 shares in Aaronson Brothers, a UK building products supplier. They knew the company's stock market price would rise because of an imminent hostile takeover bid. Staines's 12,000 shares, bought by her father, Thomas Hicks,

were sold for £3,000 profit. Morrissey's 5,000 shares were sold for a £1,500 profit.

Each was found guilty by unanimous jury verdict of counselling or procuring another to deal in securities while being a prohibited person, contrary to the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act, 1985. Judge David Selwood fined each defendant, neither of whom had any previous convictions, £1,500, with 45 days' imprisonment in the event of default on payment.

"This offence goes to the heart of the way in which the Stock Exchange in this country, and in London in particular, is organised," the judge said. "I have not the

slightest doubt, having regard to your profession, that you were perfectly well aware of what you were doing. This was a deliberate flouting of the law, which was passed to protect the market."

Both Morrissey, of Tasso Road, Hamersmith, west London, and Staines, of Chiltern Road, Richmond, Surrey, denied the charge.

Inner London Crown Court heard that in July 1990, Glunz, a German wood firm, planned a hostile takeover bid for Aaronson Brothers. Glunz planned to offer 80p a share, 30p above the 50p at which Aaronson's shares were then trading. Morrissey, a chartered account-

ant with Hope Agar, and Staines, a former chartered accountant with Kidsons Impey — both Hope Agar and Kidsons Impey are accountancy firms based in the City — learnt of the proposed takeover bid from Martin Priddle, a friend and professional colleague, two weeks before it was publicly announced, Peter Clarke, counsel for the prosecution, said.

Mr Priddle, whose firm, KPMG Peat Marwick, was involved in the planned acquisition, "let the cat out of the bag" at a garden party at Staines's home on July 18, 1990, Mr Clarke said. "He told the gathering he was working on an interest-

ing project involving a hostile takeover bid," he said. "The others present at the party were keen to find out the identity of the company that was the subject of the takeover bid."

A week later, Staines's father bought 12,000 Aaronson shares. John Maskell, acting on information from Morrissey, bought 5,000 shares, the court heard. Glunz announced its takeover bid on August 6, 1990, and Aaronson shares immediately jumped to 80 pence.

The next day, Mr Hicks sold his shares at a £3,000 profit. Morrissey, who bought Mr Maskell's shares before the August 6 announcement date, later sold them at a

£1,500 profit. The insider dealing by the two defendants was eventually exposed by a Department of Trade and Industry investigation launched in November 1990.

It was highly unlikely that either defendant would ever work in the City again, the court was told. Mr Priddle was subsequently dismissed from Peat Marwick and suffered a mental breakdown, the court heard.

The judge told the defendants: "The worst thing you did was to take advantage of the confidence placed in you by your former colleague Mr Priddle, who has since lost his job."

## Retailers enjoy best Christmas for three years

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

HIGH street retailers enjoyed a good Christmas, according to sales figures published today by the Confederation of British Industry showing the sharpest growth in shop sales for more than three years — but sales growth looks set this month to fall back.

The Government will tomorrow publish official retail sales figures, but the latest CBI distributive trades survey shows clearly that most retailers, especially large multiples, had a good Christmas in terms of increased sales.

The figures will be a welcome relief both for hard-pressed high street shops and for Government ministers and business leaders looking for signs of consumer spending that might assist economic recovery. Though high street sales growth is forecast to slacken in January, sales volumes are still rising, though at a more moderate rate.

High street stores had forecast a good Christmas, according to the CBI's survey, and though retailers thought that sales would pick up only in the final week before Christmas, today's survey, taken between December 15 and January 5 and covering 15,000 outlets, shows that their expectations were largely met.

A balance of 36 per cent of retailers, those forecasting a rise in annual sales volumes in

December set against those expecting a fall, believed sales would increase, and the final balance of actual sales of 34 per cent of companies reporting an increase is in line with those expectations.

Sales in December showed the largest year-on-year increase since April 1990, while the balance of companies viewing their sales as above average was at 11 per cent, the largest such figure since June 1990. Large multiples have seen the fastest growth rates, with a balance of 33 per cent reporting rises.

The CBI's figures suggest that retailers do not expect too much from the traditional post-Christmas sales, with the balance of those forecasting rising sales dropping back to 24 per cent in January.

Sudhir Jumanekar, CBI deputy economics director, said: "It is likely that the buoyancy of trade was in part due to keen pricing by retailers in the run-up to Christmas, which successfully attracted customers into the high street", although he gave warning that "looking ahead, prospects for retailers are not as good".

Growth in wholesalers' volumes picked up in December,

driven by the highest increase in orders placed by high street retailers for more than three years. The balance of 39 per cent of wholesalers reporting rises was much greater than the 11 per cent expectation, and further sales growth is expected this month.

But motor traders saw a slight fall in sales in December, with the balance dropping from 14 per cent seeing growth in November to 5 per cent reporting a decline.

The poorer motor performance dampened the overall sales of the distributive sector — the three areas taken together. Though total volumes across the three rose in the year to December to a balance of 33 per cent — greater than expected — sales volumes in the month were less than the 38 per cent shown in October.

Like-for-like sales at Thorntons, the chocolate maker and retailer, rose 14 per cent in the four weeks prior to Christmas (Susan Gilchrist writes). Total British retail sales for the 28 weeks to January 8 were 9 per cent up at £42.9 billion. The gains were partly offset by a decline in France, where sales of £2.2 million were lower than last year.



Nazmu Virani, former chairman and chief executive of Control Securities, who denies 14 charges alleging fraud, theft and false accounting relating to the collapse of BCCI on his way to the Old Bailey yesterday, where the jury was being sworn in ahead of tomorrow's trial.

## Metallgesellschaft price surges after rescue plan

METALLGESELLSCHAFT (MG) shares surged 20 per cent to peak just below DM250, as the Frankfurt bourse gave a warm welcome to the DM3.4-billion plan agreed with creditor banks at the weekend to save the metals and engineering group from becoming Germany's biggest post-war failure. The issue of new shares, foreseen in the rescue has been set at DM250. Profit pared the MG gains by the close, when the share price stood at DM241, up DM27 from Friday. Carl von Boehm-Bezing, a Deutsche Bank board member, said Deutsche and Dresdner Banks, which are also MG shareholders, would contribute almost half of the new credit, hundreds of millions of marks more than originally planned.

Meanwhile, IG Metall, Germany's most powerful trade union, issued a warning that a strike could be unavoidable this year, despite signs from other sectors of union moderation on pay. While employers are pressing for a zero deal, IG Metall, which covers the metals, cars and engineering industries, has offered to reduce its \$5 per cent demand, in return for job guarantees.

## Chiroscience to float

CHIROSCIENCE, the Cambridge pharmaceutical company, is to raise £35 million when it floats on the stock market later this month. The company, which is expected to have a market capitalisation of about £100 million, hopes to raise £25 million from institutional investors, with the balance coming from the public. It has yet to make a profit and expects to be loss-making for a number of years. However, in the year to February 28, 1993, it had revenues of £1.6 million. For the six months to August 31, revenues were £1.34 million.

## BAA passenger record

A BUSY December at BAA lifted passenger traffic through its seven airports by 5 per cent for last year, to a record 80.8 million. Last month, passenger traffic was up 6.6 per cent on the year, at 5.5 million. Heathrow showed a 5.9 per cent increase in 1993, but Stansted, London's third airport, saw the fastest growth at 14.5 per cent. Gatwick achieved only 1.1 per cent growth. Air transport movements at BAA airports increased 2.5 per cent to 866,056 last year, while cargo tonnage rose 10.4 per cent to 1.13 million tonnes. *Tempus, page 27*

## Fisher buys in US

ALBERT Fisher, the fresh food and processing group, is to acquire certain assets of Fresh Western Marketing, the American produce supplier, for £22.8 million. Fisher will pay an initial consideration of \$7.5 million in cash, representing book value. A further \$25 million is payable in cash depending on profits to August 31, 1998. Fisher claimed the deal would be earnings-enhancing in the first year. Fresh Western will bring patented technology for extending the shelf life of fresh produce. *Tempus, page 27*

## Pittencrieff demerger

PITTENCRIEFF, the oil, gas and mobile communications group, has proposed the demerger of its 54 per cent owned subsidiary, Pittencrieff Communications. It wants to divorce the traditional oil and gas business from the mobile communications arm, which was floated separately in America last June. Pittencrieff first announced the possibility of such a reconstruction last November. It is intended that the new oil and gas company will apply for a listing on the London Stock Exchange.

## Low & Bonar changes

IAN Macpherson has stepped down as chairman of Low & Bonar, the packaging group based in Dundee, through ill-health. Hugh Laughland, a non-executive director of the company, takes over as temporary chairman until a permanent successor is appointed. Mr Macpherson, 58, chairman of Low & Bonar since 1990 and a director since 1987, was also a former chairman of the Stock Exchange committee that looked into the future of the Unlisted Securities Market.

## Triton Energy offer

TRITON Energy Corporation, the US oil and gas developer that owns just under 60 per cent of Triton Europe, is to pay £12.5 million for the rest of the shares. The recommended bid values each Triton Europe share at 37.5p, and the whole company, based in The Netherlands, at £30.9 million. The offer is 87.5 per cent above the 20p closing price for a Triton Europe share last Friday, the last dealing day before yesterday's announcement. The offer will be through the issue of Triton Energy convertible preference shares.

## Unilever to sell stake in Falcon

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch detergents to food group, is selling its stake in Falcon, the Swedish beer and soft drinks joint venture, for an undisclosed sum.

The 55 per cent stake in Falcon, which has annual sales of £110 million, will be sold to Nordic Capital Svenska, a Swedish company specialising in restructuring projects and management buyouts.

The proceeds of the sale of the shareholding, which Unilever acquired in 1985, will appear as an extraordinary profit in the first quarter of its profit and loss account.

Unilever said it would hold on to its 9.9 per cent stake in Bryggeri AB Falken, the other partner in the joint venture. It added that expansion into the Swedish soft drinks market was no longer a priority and that it intended to concentrate on its food businesses.

Last year, Unilever spent about £750 million on acquisitions in the food sector, including the American ice cream business of Kraft General Foods and Ortiz-Milko, the French frozen food company.

## Banesto shortfall 'is 35% higher'

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

THE financial shortfall at Banco Español de Crédito (Banesto) is 675 billion pesetas (£3.1 billion), 35 per cent more than the estimate made by the Spanish central bank after it took charge of Banesto on December 28.

The management team installed at Banesto, Spain's fourth biggest bank, under Alfredo Sáenz Abad, vice-president of Banco Bilbao Vizcaya, found while scrutinising Banesto's books to prepare a rescue plan that the gap to be plugged was wider than expected.

Banesto declined to confirm the new estimate for the shortfall before publication of its rescue plan. But the figure has been broadcast on state television. The new figure is bigger because the new management investigated areas left untouched by central bank inspectors, such as the small loans portfolio, operations abroad and treasury stock.

Mario Conde, the ousted Banesto chairman, and members of his deposed board, plan to step up legal action against their removal by the

central bank, if an initial appeal does not succeed. Rafael Perez Escobar, a former Banesto director and ex-judge, said on Sunday. He said action might also be initiated against Señor Sáenz's management team, which comes from rival banks.

Pedro Solbes, economics minister, has told Banesto shareholders they will have to pay their share of the rescue, and that the state will not help.



Conde: stepping up action

## LWT silent on US West link-up

By MARTIN WALLER  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SOURCES close to LWT (Holdings), the London ITV broadcaster fighting a £681 million bid from Granada Group, were insisting last night that the company was not scouring the world entertainment business for a "white knight", in the light of City scepticism over a possible link with a US telephone company.

Neither LWT nor US West, based in Denver, Colorado, would comment on reports that the American firm, the largest player in the UK cable television field, could take a substantial stake.

The City was not prepared to write off an eventual link. But the belief is that talks are at an early stage and little can be agreed until the bid is more advanced and the date has passed when Granada can launch any final bid.

LWT is denying suggestions that a variety of "white knights" are being canvassed, even though other names, including Walt Disney and Time Warner, have been mooted.

*Tempus, page 27*

## 'Time ripe' for more management buyouts

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MANAGEMENT buyouts are set to soar this year. A biannual review of the UK marketplace by the corporate finance staff of Ernst & Young, the accountants, shows there has never been a better time for management contemplating a buyout, with interest rates at their lowest level for many years, the competition from trade buyers remaining limited, and a substantial equity appetite for deals.

Richard Haycocks, a partner in Ernst & Young's management buyout team, said that as the UK comes out of recession, management buyout teams are in a strong position to see substantial growth in their equity. He quoted Crest Packaging as an example. Four Crest man-

agers who bought out the company from Bowater in 1985 for around £5 million, brought it to market in November last year, at a market capitalisation of £54 million.

The buoyancy of the stock market is the main factor tempering management buyout activity. Mr Haycocks said: "If a company is trading on a very high price/earnings ratio, when it is selling something it has to replace the lost earnings. This makes a lot of companies reluctant to sell."

He said areas where buyouts are strong are in distressed sales and disposals for strategic reasons — particularly as conglomerates dispose of non-core firms, pointing to Hanson's sale of SLD Pumps last year.

## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

**ABTRUST SCOT INV (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £378,000  
EPS: 0.90p (0.03p)  
Div: Nil

**AEROSPACE ENG. (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £127,000  
EPS: 0.15p (0.19p)  
Div: 0.25p (0.25p)

**CHARTWELL GROUP (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £51,000  
EPS: 0.6p (1.5p)  
Div: —

**COLORVISION (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £1,286m Loss  
EPS: 4.0p (EPS: 0.5p)  
Div: 2.5p (2.5p)

**COURT CAVENDISH (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £450,000  
EPS: 2.34p (1.69p)  
Div: 1.35p

**PEEL HOLDINGS (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £2,211m (£1.64m)  
EPS: 0.61p (0.95p)  
Div: 1.3p (1p)

**SOUNDTRACKS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £615,587  
EPS: 4.08p (2.45p)  
Div: 1.48p, mkg 2.4p

Last time's revenue was £11,000. The net asset value rose to 38.0p (34.3p). Total revenue advanced to £538,820 (£177,447).

Last time's profit was £109,000. Turnover fell to £7,72m (£13.0m). Gearing reduced to 50% (71%). Trading conditions remain difficult.

There was a loss of £137,000 last time. Company said it is still seeking to identify a substantial acquisition opportunity.

There was a profit of £153,000 last time. Turnover slipped to £28m (26.7m). Market share declined to 3.1% in second quarter, from 3.7%.

Last time's profit was £28,000. There was an exceptional charge of £80,000. Turnover grew to £7.2m (£6.9m). Total beds rose to 1,537.

Turnover rose to £33m (£32.2m). Company is cautious on prospects. Surplus space still abundant and competition for tenants is fierce.

Last time's profit was £350,385. Last time's total dividend was 2.2p. Turnover rose to £5.51m (£4.11m). Company confident on prospects.

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half year results

Half year to 30 September	1993	1992 % increase
Turnover £m	65.6	40.7 +61%
Profit before tax £m	5.2	3.7 +41%
Earnings per ordinary share of 5p	6.9p	6.3p +9.5%
Dividend per ordinary share of 5p (net)	1.9p	1.8p +5.6%

- Performance of Arthur Lee, acquired 16 June 1993, exceeded expectations.
- Enlarged group order intake in the last three months higher than in the corresponding period last year.
- Assets per share increased by 7% to 113p.

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## COMMERZBANK

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By virtue of the authority (authorized capital Section 202 ff Aktiengesetz) granted at the Annual General Meeting of 27th May, 1992 of Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft (hereinafter referred to as Commerzbank), its Board of Managing Directors has resolved, with the consent of the Supervisory Board, to increase the share capital by DM 150,000,000 to DM 1,590,269,750 through the issue of 3,000,000 new shares in bearer form of par value DM 50 each, ranking for dividend from 1st January, 1994.

The issue of new shares has been undertaken by Bayerische Vereinsbank AG, Munich, with the obligation to offer DM 144,027,000 new shares to the shareholders of Commerzbank in the ratio of 1 for 10 at the price of DM 315 per new share. The remaining amount of DM 5,973,000 in new shares are excluded from the subscription right of the shareholders and will be sold in the market for the benefit of Commerzbank.

The subscription rights (Security Code No. 803 206) will be traded and listed with official quotation on all German stock exchanges and can be traded under Rule 535.4 of the London Stock Exchange, from 24th January, 1994 to 3rd February, 1994 inclusive.

Application has been made for the new shares to be listed with official quotation on all German stock exchanges and will be made to the London Stock Exchange for the new shares to be admitted to the Official List.

The new shares (Security Code No. 803 201) are represented by a global certificate deposited with Deutscher Kassenverein AG, Frankfurt am Main. The subscribers will receive credit to the account of a common depository for their new shares. No claims for the delivery of individual share certificates may be made until the new shares enjoy the same dividend entitlement as the old shares. After the shareholder's meeting on 27th May, 1994, printed share certificates will be available upon request.

Copies of the English translation of the Subscription Offer and the Listing Particulars are available on request at the offices of the London Subscription Agents, S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. and Commerzbank AG, London Branch.

## PROCEDURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Holders in the United Kingdom wishing to take up rights must lodge the following:

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and apply during the subscription period 24th January, 1994 to 7th February, 1994 inclusive, at the offices of the London Subscription Agents between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. where lodgement forms are obtainable.

Payment must be made in full on application.

Holders wishing to make payment in Sterling should agree the applicable rate of exchange with the London Subscription Agents.

Holders of entitlements may instruct the London Subscription Agents to buy or sell rights on their behalf to round their entitlements but in order to do so their forms must be lodged with the London Subscription Agents no later than 3.00 p.m. on 2nd February, 1994.

Coupons should be lodged with:

S.G. WARBURG & CO. LTD.  
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London EC2M 2PA

or

COMMERZBANK AG  
London Branch,  
Commerzbank House,  
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18th January, 1994 COMMERZBANK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT



□ A new deal for small firms would help banks □ The PIA must focus on its biggest challenge □ No accounting for a split

## Paved with good intentions

AN ALICE in Wonderland quality permeates the Bank of England's report on banks' poor relations with small business and its exposition last night by the Governor. Everyone is to blame and therefore no-one is to blame. Next question please. Where do we go from here? Answer, we all try harder. That's all right then.

There is, to be fair, more to the conclusions of the Bank's paper on finance for small firms than that. But they do rely rather too much on generalities and good intentions. Lenders should be better trained and there should be more of them. True. Indeed, bank shareholders would surely have deserted in droves before disaster struck had they realised that a typical lending manager might have up to 400 small businesses on his books. The old-style bank manager might be able to manage that, but only because he knew from experience which to bother about and could keep a constant casual weather eye on what was happening on the ground in his locality. Fast-moving managers in "specialist business centres", whether or not aided by computer-based systems to "help them analyse balance sheet sensitivities" could surely not. That is progress. But if that is the way the banks want it, let them do it their way. The important thing is

that they should commit the resources appropriate to their own long-term commitment to the sector. Over-burdened portfolios bespeak an era when banks suddenly switched lending to small business, then fashionable, only to have understandable second thoughts three or four years later.

The second crucial way to improve small business finance is to tailor it to the needs of the borrower. Some banks have really been thinking about this and some are developing integrated small business packages. That is a real advance that all should follow fast. The Bank report suggests customers are the conservative force wedded to overdrafts. That is probably because longer-term loans are typically much more expensive and carry ill-structured repayment schedules. Why? If confidence is to be given to smaller businesses, banks should at least have published schedules of margins over base rate for various types of loan, reflecting their own specified assessment of risk, rather than fill in the blanks according to taste. While British

banks are not in the business of providing equity, they might to advantage play a bigger part in organising it, either as conduit for individual angels or as sponsors for funds linked to their own lending. Factoring and related services can surely also play a much bigger role, since small businesses would be foolish to set much store by legislation on late payment — a bright idea past its sell-by date if ever there was one.

In short, having abolished their old structure of professionalism, banks need to create a new one. Now that really would be a good intention.

### Forgotten pawn in battle for the PIA

NEARLY every day, or so it seems, Fimbra sends out notices suspending, terminating (and occasionally restoring) the trading licences of one or more of its 6,000 members. In five years, one in nine member firms has had its authorisation under the Financial Services Act revoked for rule breaches, often con-



nected with financial strain, and a third of the membership has gone. This is truly the sharp end of financial regulation. For this self-regulatory organisation, often seen as the Cinderella of SROs, elevated intellectual arguments over technicalities, or high-level lobbying over policy, are not the stuff of life. It is the hard grind of checking credentials and paperwork, often of small, financially unsophisticated firms. Fimbra has had the hardest job, regulating the kind of firms whose occasional disastrous collapses first spawned the call for legislation that became the FSA. It has also had the least adequate financial resources, having to be supported by Lauro, regulator

of the big, wealthy life assurance companies. Indeed, in an echo of the Act's origins, it was the need to seek some solution to Fimbra's financial plight that led to the proposed formation of the Personal Investment Authority.

Viewed from that standpoint, the PIA seems an even odder animal. It will be the poshest of all SROs. The endless arguments over its formation are battles between the big battalions such as banks, insurance companies and building societies. They have little to do with Fimbra members. They are battles over principles and policy — arguments about whether the big firms are so powerful and confident that they can keep riding roughshod over the Securities and Investments Board and stick to selling rules no longer acceptable to consumer interests — as the pension transfer issue has demonstrated. Hence the bizarre solution, rightly questioned by leading insurance groups, that practitioners should form a minority of the board of a self-regulator.

Nothing in the PIA's formation so far suggests it will devote

its highest priorities to nitty gritty regulation of the sort demonstrated by Fimbra's heavy fallout rate. It is premature to condemn on that ground. The recent rows stem from the need to get the PIA show on the road. That was why the consensual Sir Gordon Downey was effectively ousted from the PIA chair. Yet the result may be that the PIA falls by the wayside, presumably paving the way for straight-forward statutory regulation. That may be no bad thing.

### Goodwill: back to the drawing board

NOT a good start for David Tweedie's pre-Christmas proposals for a new standard to account for goodwill — the excess of an acquisition's price over its fair book value. His Accounting Standards Board was split and offered a range of alternatives, inviting comments on two favoured options. Now Touche Ross, in its timely response, effectively rejects the very basis of the ASB discussion paper and therefore all its options. This is

no maverick reaction. Its main author is Ken Wild, who chairs the financial reporting committee at the Institute of Chartered Accountants and is generally thought a sound man.

The board's members split essentially on the same lines that technical accountants have been split for years. But they did manage to agree on one thing: that intangible assets such as brand names, airline slots or publishing rights were merely goodwill and even that patents should have no book value beyond the cost of obtaining them. Mr Wild and Touche Ross rightly say this does not make sense. The test of whether an asset has a value separate from a business should not be whether you can touch it. A whisky brand is easier to separate from a distilling business than, say, an airport from an airport business. And it should be no harder to value than anything else whose value rests on its specific earning power, such as a public house.

By excluding intangible assets from the balance sheet, the board increases the amount of goodwill to be accounted for. Since everyone agrees goodwill is an accounting oddity and that there is no agreed or wholly satisfactory way of treating it, the board is exaggerating the importance of an insoluble problem. This seems a daft thing to do.

## Lucas reveals enquiry at American subsidiary

By COLIN CAMPBELL

LUCAS Industries says that it has been co-operating with United States defence and justice officials for the past 18 months in an investigation concerning test procedures at Lucas AUL, its American subsidiary, but emphasised yesterday that to date there have been no criminal charges.

The automotive and aerospace components group said that the United States investigation involved products from a missile testing and a handheld radio company that Lucas bought in the late 1980s for \$11 million, and that full

provision for any claims that might arise had already been made in group accounts.

Lucas does not dispute suggestions on Wall Street of a claim for \$20 million for missile launch components that were allegedly not tested properly.

"Lucas considers that a settlement of the claim is likely, as is customary in such cases, and this is covered by appropriate provisions already made in previous years," the official announcement to the Stock Exchange in London said.

In the group's 1993 ac-

counts, there was a total £108 million item for provisions, of which £56.3 million was designated "other provisions", within which was an amount to cover "warranty and other claims". Lucas declined to break this figure down.

Lucas said that "the wheels grind slowly in these matters" in America, and it did not know when the next development might be. Yesterday was its first public admission of an investigation.

It had "directed" analysts to potential problem areas within its aerospace activities in the United States when last it

addressed them in October. Lucas shares yesterday rose 2p to 211p.

Lucas and the United States authorities both said that there is no connection between the products under investigation and the so-called "friendly fire" incidents in the Gulf conflict in 1991.

The group said that the test procedures which the United States authorities are examining were "in place" at the time the companies were bought in the 1980s, and that group officials had been readily co-operating with the authorities for the past 18 months.



Chris Ivory of Dalepak Foods, profits of which slumped in the six months to October

### Dalepak cuts payout after price squeeze

PRICE pressure from retailers and higher raw material costs in frozen foods forced Dalepak Foods to cut the payout, as pre-tax profits plunged from £1.6 million to £29,000 for the six months to October 31 (Susan Gilchrist writes). The payout is cut from 1.5p to 0.5p. The company, of which Chris Ivory is chief executive, said in October that it would only break even.

Turnover in the core frozen foods business fell by 13 per cent. The retailers' squeeze accounted for four percentage points of that and a reduction in unprofitable promotional activity for the remainder. The sales fall, combined with an 11 per cent increase in raw material costs, pushed the division into a trading loss.

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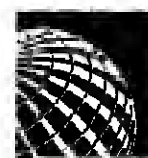
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The success story of the Sony Corporation illustrated by just two of the ten final assembly lines of the company's Walkman plant in Sakato

## No room for Bransons or Sugars on Japan's boards

**W**hen Akio Morita, chairman of Sony Corporation, was rushed to hospital last month with a brain haemorrhage, Japan's business and government communities were instantly united in concern and sympathy for the 72-year-old entrepreneur.

Mr Morita may be making a slow if uncertain recovery, but his incapacitation has brought into sharp focus an issue with which the country's governing and business elites have been quietly concerned for some time: the lack in Japan of new generations of innovative as well as innovative and entrepreneurial brains in his mould.

Sipping their whiskies in dimly lit hostess bars on the night the news broke, grey-suited "corporate warriors" responsible for the economic future of the country, waxed lyrical about Mr Morita, ruing the withdrawal from the domestic business world of Japan's most celebrated entrepreneur and from the international arena of an eloquent spokesman for the country.

While Sony officials still claim confidently that Mr Morita will be back at work in due course, many suspect his long and unique career has effectively drawn to a close. "It is tragic but true — I cannot think of any innovative thinkers of his ilk coming up on the horizon. We just don't seem to produce the truly entrepreneurial maverick types — the Richard Bransons and Alan Sugars — that we should," said one fan of the Morita success story.

It was in a very different Japan of almost half a century ago that Mr Morita pooled \$500 with an engineering colleague to found Sony in a bombed-out Tokyo department store. Mr Morita's determination, imagination, verve, individuality and business flair have all been built up into the stuff of legend in Japan, not least through highly effective public relations, but nobody can deny he was largely responsible for shaping the company into the internationally renowned electronics giant with \$34 billion annual sales of today.

As the eldest son of a wealthy sake brewing family, Mr Morita had been groomed from childhood to take over the family business; however, his obsession with electrical engineering proved too strong. Sony's first product, an electric rice cooker, failed, but four years later Sony bought the rights to an American invention called the transistor and adapted it in a way its originators had never imagined — in radios small enough to fit in a pocket. With this coup Sony began winning its reputation for innovation and selling

**Joanna Pitman says that Japan's rigid business culture will not allow the likes of Sony's Akio Morita to flourish today**

products all over the world that people had never realised they wanted.

In the 1960s, Sony transformed video tape recorders — another US invention — from huge machines into compact transistorised models and then a decade later into the VCR. By the late 1970s, Sony had established itself in the US market, and in the early 1980s European and other international investments followed. Mr Morita, has since involved himself in wider business and political issues, attempting to calm frictions between Japan and its trading partners and creating a reputation for himself as Japan's Prince Charles for his lofty, though not

less restrictive atmosphere of US research centres. In technology trade, Japan is heavily in the red, paying out far more for other people's ideas in designs, patents and production licences than she does exporting her own.

mainly to developing countries in the form of joint ventures in the basic material and processing industries. However, as exemplified by Sony, Japan has proved hard to beat in the development and adaptation of ideas that translate into commercially viable products. Titanium alloys that change shape had been around for years before a Japanese company realised they would make the perfect frame for bras. It also took a Japanese company to realise water-absorbent resins could be used in nappies, as they now are everywhere.

In areas of high technology, Japanese advances in ceramics, optoelectronics and satellite technology are evidence of a skill that goes far beyond that of the mere copycat. Japanese scientists repeatedly display abilities to

analyse, develop, synthesise and envisage ingenious new possibilities. Japanese creativity, therefore, tends to manifest itself in innovation rather than invention. A day seldom passes without the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, Japan's leading business newspaper, proclaiming the creation of some new Japanese "epoch-making" product or process. More often than not, the innovation has come on the back of an invention bought in from outside Japan — but then it is usually in innovation that profits lie.

Ever since it began its rapid postwar progress in industrialisation and modernisation, Japan has been fortunate in being able to rely on foreign technological ideas for its innovative purposes. In the 1960s, when MITI introduced subsidies and incentives to encourage technology imports, foreign companies were still battling to get anything past Japan's rigid market barriers. Here they were grateful for an opening, and many Western chemical, electronic and machinery makers gave away crucial know-how then to the same Japanese competitors who are today cutting swathes through the West's markets.

Invention is often far more costly than innovation. The creation of the random access memory, for example, cost huge amounts of money, talent and time in the thousands of failed but vital — projects that preceded it. It was also invented under a system of conceptual scientific inquiry that is anathema to the Japanese process of strictly goal-oriented R&D.

The Japanese scientific and business community has yet to start paying out such enormous costs — in financial commitment, talent, time and space for freer scientific thought — for its own inventive spirit. Yet its success in all other areas of business development means that sooner or later Japan will have to face up to the challenge to start making its own breakthroughs.

Free-ranging experimentation is inimical to the Japanese ideology of conformity where the individual is expected to sublimate himself for the sake of the group. The changes required if Japan is to continue making the pace will not be easy — Japanese people will be asked to modify what they fiercely and proudly protect as their essential "Japaneseness". But a recognition of the necessity for such changes is beginning to sprout. The recent shock to the business world of Mr Morita's illness, has certainly served a purpose. Japan has successfully tackled greater challenges before now. It will doubtless rise to this one.



Morita: founded Sony with \$500

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Roddick boxes too clever

**ANITA** Roddick, fiery founder of the Body Shop cosmetics group, who earned £561,000 last year, may have miscalculated in deciding to open her warehouse and boxing plant at Littlehampton, to public tours. She may even, it seems, be having second thoughts about never advertising to boost business. Roddick's team is offering 27 tours a day, leaving every 20 minutes, but one said there was so little demand recently that there have been as few as only three tours some days. Worse, some have dared to suggest that the tours are really quite boring, with the highlight being a shop called the Trading Post, built in a Wild West design. Over Christmas, the Body Shop gave away 234 free tours through a promotion in a local newspaper. They usually cost £3.50 for adults and £2 for children and pensioners. "Marvel at the warehouse the size of 24 tennis courts," went the blurb. A spokesman at the booking office played down talk of a crisis, saying they were "too busy for words".

**Yamaichi secret**  
CREATIVE award of the new year surely goes to Yamaichi

International, the Japanese securities house, which managed to keep details of a festive bash at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London well and truly under wraps — until now. Some 500 staff and directors who turned up for the Christmas party were confronted by a police car, blue flashing lights, men in dark glasses and hats — you guessed it, the Blues Brothers. Star of the occasion, which featured walls rising electronically into the ceiling and other bewildering effects, was Ronald Hepburn, head of public relations, who presented the prizes and managed to keep his humour the following morning when 50 children were allowed to crawl



"Chocolate is the latest — everyone's painting walls with it"

all over the dealing room during the firm's annual kiddies' "open day".

### Wrong track

**BRITISH** Rail is adopting some strange marketing techniques as it lurches along the privatisation track. Perhaps to deflect attention from recent steep fare increases, IntraCity has produced a glossy brochure offering "money-saving fares" for advance bookings to a range of destinations. Any one booking from Yorkshire could be in for an interesting ride, judging by the cover photograph of the local edition, which shows a couple walking hand in hand. A keen-eyed

reader has traced the picture to New Bond Street Place in the historic city of Bath — which does not rate a single mention anywhere in the brochure. BR could not identify the photograph at first, but later said it was taken in Norwich. Be sure to pack a compass.

### An inspector calls

**HARD-WORKING** corporate financier Robert Clinton, the Greig Middleton director rumoured to be a dab hand on the violin — a suggestion he strenuously denies, has been doing a little work on the side. The evidence surfaced in the new series of *The Inspector Allyn Mysteries* on BBC1 — in the form of his kitchen, bedroom and four-poster bed. Clinton and wife, Joan, were "thrown out" of their Suffolk house for a week last August while the TV crew moved in.

**Taxman chips in**  
SHAKING off the Westminster blues, Chancellor Kenneth Clarke is due at the Bank of England today to launch a £35 million nationwide appeal on behalf of the National Deaf Children's Society. The appeal, dubbed *The Gold Rush*, will see the taxman chip in 33p for every pound donated — a bonus worth a potential

£750,000. Eddie George, Bank of England Governor, will be on hand, along with "golden" celebrities including Lord Wyatt, chairman of the Tote, which sponsors the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

### Mirrored Maxwell

**WITH** just over a month to go before *Maxwell*, the Musical Review, opens at the Criterion Theatre in London's West End, the pre-launch hype is expanding as fast as the fat man's waistline. On February 11, anyone named Maxwell will be able to claim two tickets for the price of one to compensate for the embarrassment caused. On February 19, free seats will be provided for a politicians' night out — rather like the old days. And the opening night on February 21 will be followed by a massive party during which Harry Ramsden's fish and chips will be served in complimentary copies of the *Daily Mirror*. What better?

**FROM** a company staff magazine in Alabama: "More of our indoor recreational facilities will get under way during 1994. The ladies' choir has started rehearsals, and we expect the rifle club to be in action before long."

**JON ASHWORTH**

## TEMPUS

### On the starting block

**FLOTATIONS** are a bull market phenomenon, particularly when the vehicle is a subsidiary of a larger group. Managements like independence, and selling shares to a wider public reinforces their control, but stock market launches are expensive and the parent needs a good reason to float off a subsidiary.

The attraction for BTR must be in the price: quoted builders' merchants are trading at spectacular multiples in the hope of a profits recovery from the housing recession. Much of this is due to rationalisation at companies such as Meyer and the introduction of better stock control. Beating back costs that were allowed to rise during the late 1980s has enabled the sector to begin to stage a margin recovery. The first signs of movement in the price of construction materials should boost the top line: plasterboard is already rising

strongly as is timber on the back of shortages in the US market. Price rises are also coming through in cement, and even the brick manufacturers are starting to test the market.

Graham is a collection of different businesses being refocused at specific markets, while the Goodman Croghan agricultural wholesaler looks the odd man out in the group. Graham may be part of the way along the recovery road led by rivals such as Jewson but the question for investors is how much cream BTR will leave on the plate. Having paid a hefty \$820 million for Remond, BTR will be keen to push for a high multiple. But unless Graham is capable of getting operating margins of more than 5 per cent on its £375 million in sales, it is unlikely to come near sector forecast multiples of 18 times earnings.

### LWT

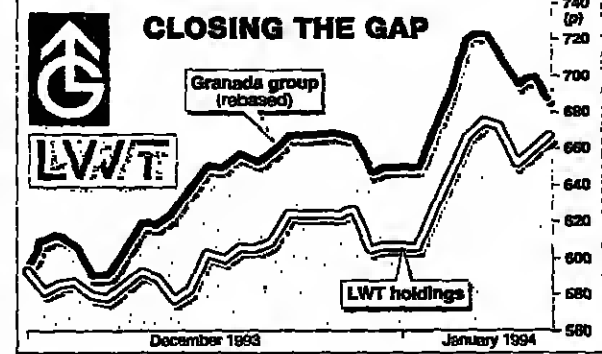
**ANOTHER** day, another white knight, might be the cynical response to the reports, unconfirmed but unlikely to have caused much upset at South Bank TV Centre, that LWT is now talking to US West. Unless and until a firm offer is on the table, investors in LWT should focus on the terms actually on offer from Granada.

The first fact that those investors should take on board is that the battle, which before Christmas seemed to be swinging the bidder's way, is now up in the air. Gerry Robinson of Granada might then reasonably have thought, as the LWT price languished below the shares package on offer, that he would not have to sweeten the offer; the position is now reversed, and LWT shares are 12p ahead of the terms. It

is significant, therefore, that the decision to stop the bid clock while the OFT deliberates on the combined group's share of airtime sales was at the instigation of Granada, which would otherwise seem to have an interest in allowing the bid to close as soon as possible. Conversely, the extension was opposed by LWT, which should have

been expected to want as long a delay as possible to allow any "white knights" to emerge. In all this, Granada has deliberately acted to ensure it will be able to improve on the offer once all the facts, including the OFT's report, are known.

That improved offer now looks inevitable, if Granada is to win the day.



### BAA

**STEADY** growth in air traffic comes as a mixed blessing for BAA, as it settles into the heated planning arguments over the proposed fifth terminal at Heathrow. Local opposition to the development is mounting, while estimates of traffic growth suggest Heathrow could run up against capacity restraints well before the expected arrival of the new terminal after 2000.

Heathrow is BAA's golden goose, and bumper profits from airport retailing are thanks to its success in capturing the gateway to Europe. That position has made Heathrow the most profitable airport anywhere for airlines because of its high-yielding passengers. Some 30 per cent of Heathrow's traffic is transit passengers but there are rivals within Europe, including Schiphol in Amsterdam and Charles de Gaulle in Paris eager to steal the business.

The success of Heathrow has in part been achieved by the poaching of business from Gatwick and BAA has attempted to lure airlines back to Gatwick with lower rents and charges, but

Heathrow's hub is worth more to airlines than the concessions. Failure to get its fifth terminal could be a serious blow, faced with capacity problems, leading international carriers would be unlikely to switch their flight paths to Gatwick or Stansted when Charles de Gaulle is beckoning.

### TR Property Trust

**A PLAY** on property shares today is in large part a bet on how quickly assets will rise in value to meet the expectations built into share prices. Share price premiums have risen so far that even the smaller players such as Burford are trading at 20 per cent premiums to forecast net asset values one year out.

Touche Remnant Property Investment Trust could provide an answer to investors who want cheaper exposure. The company is invested in more than a dozen smaller quoted property shares and is trading at about its net asset value of 38p.

Smaller companies will outperform the majors this year and TR could be a beneficiary.

### Albert Fisher

**THERE** seems to be no respite in the steady stream of American acquisitions from Albert Fisher. The strategy of making bolt-on acquisitions to build dominant positions in regional markets continues unabated with the company now snapping up certain key assets of Fresh Western.

Although this target is based in California, a market which has struggled badly in recent years, it builds on Albert Fisher's already strong position there. Moreover, it operates in the fast growing and higher margin business of pre-cut salads. Fresh Western also brings access to useful patented technology for extending the shelf life of fresh produce, which can play an important role in reducing costs and/or adding value.

While the group's strategy for America continues according to plan, Europe may prove more stubborn. The price pressures which took their toll on profits last year are unlikely to ease significantly in the short-term. Nevertheless the shares are still an attractive recovery stock.

## BUSINESS LETTER

### Army still offers jobs

**FROM** Brigadier C.H. Elliott, Director, Army Recruiting: Sir, Philip Bassett's article "Studying recent form for the Jobseekers Handicap" (January 11) is inaccurate as far as recruiting for the Army is concerned. Although the overall strength of the Army is reducing to 122,000 during the period 1992 to 1995, there is a continuing requirement to recruit. During the next financial year, the Army's recruit targets will increase by about 25 per cent. This financial year, the Army recruited 8,700 soldiers and 600 officers. Next financial year, the Army's targets are 11,200 soldiers, including 1,200 apprentices, and 730 officers. As for part-time Territorial Army (TA) soldiers, their recruiting requirement is steady, although the overall TA manning figure has yet to be decided. For financial year 1995-96, the overall Army recruit figure is expected to rise significantly.

Under current plans, therefore, the Army is expected to meet recruit targets that will be nearly double the current level (16,700, compared with 9,300) over the next two financial years. It is thus wrong to imply that the Army is an occupation "in decline". Moreover, such an implication is clearly not in the national interest. The public must be informed that the Army continues to offer worthwhile careers fundamental to national security, and needs young men and women now and in the future for full-time and part-time jobs.

Yours faithfully,  
**CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT**,  
Director of Army  
Recruitment,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Lillie Road, SW6.

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# Modest gains at the close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 17. Dealings end January 28. Settlement day February 7. Forward prices are permitted on two previous business days. Prices are quoted as at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is re-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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100	99	Bank of America	100	99	10	10
100	99	Bank of America	100	99	10	10





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# All pumps to the oil rigs

**BY SALLY WATTS**

The purchase of a basic pump costs her £900, rising to £1,500 when the modifications and additions are carried out by sub-contracted labour, partly from her father's firm. To start up, she needed £10,000. She went to a bank, but felt the interest asked was too high. Her father's firm then lent her the money as a business arrangement. Within a year she had cleared the debt, helped partly by prize money as Scottish finalist in the nationwide *Livewire* contest, 1992, for young entrepreneurs.

Now 22, she has transferred Pumps Unlimited from one room to a small industrial unit, made it a limited company with herself as manager and has a current turnover exceeding £100,000 a year.

Business has expanded. Last year, she attended the offshore exhibition in Norway and the result, is that she has secured a contract for a Norwegian-made portable, electric, hot water pressure washer.

She has also signed up her own agent in Norway, has an outlet at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, and hires directly to Yemen through a UK company. Her aim is to diversify further, increasing her still small involvement with the chemical, shipping and construction industries and moving into mining.



Pennington, page 25

**Jacqueline Muller, a finalist in a contest for young entrepreneurs**

Durham University's Graduate Associate Programme (GAP) has had so much impact on small firms in the North-East that it is to be developed in other regions. The Department of Trade and Industry has commissioned Teaching Company Directorate (TCD) to promote the programme as a model to boost small business prospects nationally. Durham has compiled a detailed manual with four days' consultancy, subsidised by the DTI, it costs £4,400 plus VAT. The TCD offers a brochure and free attendance at one of two London seminars on February 1 or 7. Contact: Sarah Goodacre, Teaching Company Directorate, 0367 242822.

□ **Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce** has launched a programme of events – all free – to help small businesses in its area. On Thursday evening, a management consultant will discuss techniques that can help improve small business management while next Tuesday, the focus will be on distribution, with a visit to a centre which holds more than 40,000 product lines with substantial daily deliveries. Over the next few months, topics to be tackled will include the Data Protection Act and how to keep insurance costs low.

☐ Essex Training and Enterprise Council is this month starting a purchasing facility at Chelmsford to help small businesses find, in their own area, the materials they need. Telephone: 0245 450 123.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

# BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

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## TENDERS AND

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# VITAL

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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**CINEMA page 32**  
Old hams on screen:  
The Hour of the Pig is  
the latest film with a  
porcine protagonist

# ARTS

**THEATRE page 33**  
Playing it by the book:  
Mike Alfreds talks about  
the art of adapting  
novels for the stage



GALLERIES: "The Unknown Modigliani"; London's contemporary art fair; plus news and listings

## A good line in hyperbole

Does the cache of Modigliani drawings now on show in London justify all the excitement, asks Richard Cork

Whenever a cache of hidden work by a well-known artist is at last revealed, expectations are raised to the highest pitch. Enthusiasts hope that their hero's reputation will soar even further, with the discovery of hitherto unsuspected achievements. The excitement is understandable, and explains why "The Unknown Modigliani" attracted so much heady publicity before its arrival at the Royal Academy.

But does the show live up to the hype? After all, it consists almost entirely of pencil drawings, saved from the dustbin by the devoted efforts of the artist's friend, patron and landlord, a young medical doctor called Paul Alexandre. Although the RA has added the odd painting and sculpture from other sources, the exhibition rests on a display of draughtsmanship alone.

A selection of 200 sheets has been made from the 450 preserved so lovingly and secretly by Alexandre until his death in 1938. He was right to save them. But judging by the number of surprisingly slight exhibits on view here, the collection did not deserve to be displayed in such quantity.

The show would have been far more compelling if only 100 drawings had been chosen, and hung more sparsely to combat the sense of overkill. Time and again, a cluster of studies repeats the same subject to the point of tedium. Irritation sets in, making us feel that Alexandre's hoard has been treated with a reverence out of all proportion to its significance as art.

Devotees of Modigliani may argue that, since he habitually worked in series, the selection had to reflect his love of tireless variations. Preoccupied with only a few obsessive themes, he returned again and again to the same elongated images of a mask-like head, a woman's face in profile, a standing caryatid and a seated female nude.

All the same, must we be presented with so many drawings that reiterate the formal invention he has already defined? Their cumulative effect is numbing, and detracts from the positive side of Modigliani's continual search for a goal he described, somewhat gnomically, as "nei-

ther the real nor the unreal but the unconscious, the mystery of human instinctive behaviour". With its ready-made Freudian undertones, his statement sums up the aims of an artist consumed by the urge to simplify the visible world until he arrived at a stripped, absolute essence.

Like many other young artists whom he knew in Paris before the First World War, Modigliani was caught up in a radical search for new ways of seeing. He stood apart from the flurry of avant-garde movements which noisily jos-

**'Magnificently gifted, he never made the most of his natural talent'**

ted for attention. Even the Futurists, based in his native Italy, held no attraction for a man committed to calm, discreetly sensual images centred on the human figure. But that does not mean he lacked experimental zeal.

Like his friend Brancusi, who had also journeyed from another European country to settle in the French capital, he wanted to purge art of all its distracting superfluities. Even the earliest drawings on display, dating from the months after his arrival in Paris in 1906, already show an artist dedicated to finding the essential contour and rejecting elaboration of all kinds.

Such an approach might imply that Modigliani had no time for portraiture. How could an artist bent on pursuing the purity of form ever bring himself to deal with the unpredictable oddities of individual features? Well, Modigliani somehow managed to combine both concerns, often with aplomb.

An early commission from Alexandre's father led him deftly to summarise his sitter's aloof, crisply bearded face without sacrificing a grasp of character. The result has an aristocratic poise which becomes magnified in several studies for a portrait of

Alexandre fils. Comparison with a contemporaneous photograph of the doctor proves that Modigliani could achieve a persuasive likeness. And in the three-quarter length drawings, where Alexandre poses with a languorous hand on hip, the dandified elegance is reminiscent of Ingres's sitters at their most feline.

By far the most arresting portrait, though, is of the Baroness Marguerite de Hasse de Villiers in riding dress. Once again, Modigliani opts for a hand on hip stance. But this time, there is no hint of slackness. Aptly nicknamed *The Amazon*, this crisp young woman glances sideways at the observer, as if pausing only for a second. Her smile is knowing, the gesture of someone who regards the whole notion of a portrait as a momentarily amusing game. And Modigliani's deft, sparing lines accentuate her clear-cut briskness.

Seen close-to, the finest of the *Amazon* head and shoulder studies disclose the artist's love of simplification in the most beguiling manner. After defining her eyes with soft, subtle shading, he uses the black crayon to summarise her eyelids with strong, dark strokes. They slice through the more tentative earlier marks, asserting a decisive belief in the beauty of unblemished line almost for its own sake.

No wonder he was attracted to the severity of African masks. Their influence, combined with ancient Greek and Cambodian art, is most overt in the impressive sequence of full-face and profile drawings associated with his sculpture. The limestone carving borrowed from Washington presides over this section of the survey, attenuated and imperturbable. The smoothness of the face, with its extravagantly narrow nose and almond eyes, is contrasted with the rough handling of the broken hair erupting from the back of her head. It is a superb distillation of Modigliani's striving towards an ideal refinement.

The presence of this hieratic sculpture made me long to see an exhibition of all his carvings. They encapsulate the gravest and most aspiring side of Modigliani's art. Epstein,



*The Amazon*, March-April 1909: the deft lines of Modigliani's portrait accentuate the subject's clear-cut briskness

who befriended him in 1912 and visited his "miserable hole" of a studio, found it filled with a dozen of these elongated stone heads and described how "at night he would place candles on the top of each one... the effect was that of a primitive temple". Even in the secular light of the Royal Academy exhibition, the carving exudes spiritual authority. The drawings near by stand out in their concerted rigour, giving the lie to the glibness in other studies where Modigliani is content to rely on well-rehearsed mannerisms.

Magnificently gifted, he over made the most of his natural talent. There is a laziness about much of his work, amounting at times to complacency. His command of line could be deployed without conspicuous effort, and it tempted him to settle for facility when he should have opted for greater inventiveness.

The caryatid figures are especially effete, as their coyly upheld arms pretend to provide support for the unseen architecture above. Occasionally, Modigliani inserts pro-

vocate hermaphrodites with female heads and minuscule male genitals. They are even more unexpected than the studies of a young man posing as a caryatid, which will surprise anyone who supposed that Modigliani was exclusively interested in the female nude. They suggest that his sexuality was more complex than the myth of the drunken womaniser proposes.

After Alexandre was called up in August 1914, he never saw his favourite artist again. So the last six years of Modigliani's short life are not

represented here, and most of the drawings from that period were presumably lost or destroyed by the careless artist. His doctor did him a service by preserving the earlier work with such care, and the collection will prove invaluable to historians. But for the Academy's visitors, a selection as purged as Modigliani's best draughtsmanship would have led to a more bracing show than the monotonous excess on offer here.

● The Unknown Modigliani at the Royal Academy (071-476 7438) until April 4

## Adding up to zero



WHEN Christie's £7.7 million sale of an 18th-century calculator fell through last summer with the winning bidder refusing to pay, Sotheby's were quick to advertise the fact that they had a similar object coming up, but that, sensibly, they expected £200,000 maximum for it. Now it emerges that the Sotheby's sale never took place. "Ours turned out to be a replica. We whizzed it back to its owner," says Sotheby's expert John Baddeley.

● BONHAMS withdrew the star lot in their Maritime sale last Thursday after being accused of failing to do their homework. According to the catalogue, *The Morning Gun* is by the early 18th-century painter Peter Monamy and worth £12,000 to £18,000. But David James, chairman of Eagle Trust PLC, pointed out that the composition is virtually identical to a painting of the *Royal Sovereign* by the famous Flemish artist Willem van de Velde the Younger, and he suggested it should be upgraded. School of van de Velde paintings sell for between £70,000 and £250,000, while works by the master can be worth over £300,000.

A Monamy collector, James is also familiar with the original van der Velde, which hangs at Lloyds. But, right up to the eleventh hour, Bonhams' experts insisted they knew a Monamy when they saw one. Then the painting was withdrawn. Now it transpires that its prospects have got worse. Bonhams now say it is by T. Leemans, an inferior contemporary.

## Pools jackpot

● PETER Moores, the Littlewoods pools flier, caused a flurry last October by buying Compton Verney house in Warwickshire in order to house an ambitious centre for opera and visual art. Now, it appears the project is well under way, with the purchase at an estimated £1 million of the British naval art collection of the London dealer Andras Kalman. According to the administrator, Alan Swerdlow, other target categories include 16th-century German paintings, 17th-century Neapolitan and Chinese archaic bronzes.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

## Museums need newer acquisitions

When Marjorie Allthorpe-Guyton was a very young curator at Norwich Castle Museum, the dealer Andrew Murray offered her Wyndham Lewis's *Portrait of the Artist as a Tyro* for a mere £10,000. "It was a very generous offer," she says. "I fought hard for it, but in the end the museum director said: 'Sorry, but I just won't get it past the acquisitions committee'."

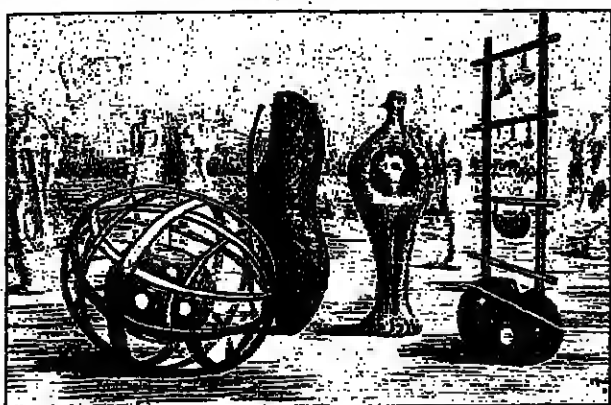
Twenty years later, things have changed little with contemporary art. It is seen by museums often as either a frivolous luxury or an unnecessary encumbrance. A "Museums Day" at Art 94 - the London Contemporary Art Fair which opens tomorrow at the Business Design Centre - might just change the odds.

"It's very easy to make art a scapegoat when you are worried about social conditions," says Allthorpe-Guyton. "It's a fear of change and of the world we live in. There is a dreadful xenophobia, a parochialism, towards contemporary art in this country, and attitudes we have seen recently would shock the French, Germans and Italians."

Allthorpe-Guyton is now the Arts Council's visual arts officer, and rallying the troops in defence of innovative art. For the first time her department has a stand at Art 94, to show support for artists and their dealers, and to encourage museums to follow suit.

She has a joint scheme with the Contemporary Art Society to help three publicly-funded

Simon Tait on plans to encourage curators to support innovative art



*Sculptural Objects*, a 1949 lithograph by Henry Moore, is among the works at Art 94 in Islington this week

galleries - in Eastbourne, Hull and Wolverhampton - to buy new works, and another to encourage curators from different museums to confer, at last, on contemporary art. More than 90 provincial museum curators have signed up for Museums Day on Friday.

Liz-Anne Macgregor is director of the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham, one of the foremost showcases for new work outside London. She believes that much of the problem stems from museums being controlled by people who know nothing about art, decision-making responsibility being buried deep in a cash-strapped local leisure services department.

Young curators who want to put on a contemporary show are too often over-ruled. "There is a social-history fascism prevailing in many museums, which says that people can only come to terms with something that's relevant to them. This leaves contemporary art right out," Macgregor says.

Macgregor is married to Peter Jenkinson, director of a traditional municipal museum and gallery, in Walsall, that also has one of the best collections of 20th-century art outside London, and a progressive exhibitions policy. His fear is that exhibition-makers in the public sphere, and especially those feeling financially vulnerable, will in-

creasingly avoid presenting contemporary art in order to avoid controversy and ridicule. "Yet this is precisely the time when galleries should be passionate in their commitment to new art, and should be arguing publicly and strongly for its support."

Too many are relying on what they read to make a judgement, according to Gill Hickey, the new director of the Contemporary Art Society. "Art critics remain art critics for a very long time," she says. "And, not surprisingly, their tastes don't change much. There is a lot more new art about now, and not a lot more new critics to write about it in the daily press."

A gulf also exists between the curators and the commercial galleries. Some of the latter, like Ian Barker of the Annely Juda Gallery in Mayfair, will go halves on a catalogue with a provincial gallery which takes the show.

"Curators have such tiny travel budgets and they can't see the major shows, so they are getting their education from magazines," Barker says. "What this forum should do is give them an opportunity to get a sense of contemporary taste." For them Lucy Sicks, the director of Art 94 and deviser of Museums Day, is offering help with rail fares on Friday.

What infuriates Liz-Anne Macgregor is the element of missed opportunity, because she believes that unsuspecting folk are intrigued by contemporary work. She was a con-

sultant for BBC2's flawed but enlightening series *Byker* last summer in which Tyne-side estate dwellers curated their own art exhibition from local public collections. "The old lady, Dolly, said to me at the end: 'Funny, but we ended up talking about the new stuff much more than the old stuff. There's more to it.'"

● Art 94, the London Contemporary Art Fair, is at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1, tomorrow to Sun

● CYRIL EDWARD POWERS: Clearly a prophet without much honour in his own country, Powers (1872-1951) has, with his circle of dedicated linocutters such as Claude Flight and Sybil Andrews, received much more attention abroad, notably in America. The problem lies probably in the medium: the linocut sounds like kids' stuff, one educational step up from the potato-cut. But the way this group used the medium to further the cause of rampant modernism between the wars not only

commands respect, but also produced stunning images of metropolitan dash. Redfern Gallery, 20 Cork Street, W1 (071-734 1732) Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, until Feb 10.

● VIVAN SUNDARAM: One of India's leading modernist artists, Sundaram trained as a painter in India and at the Slade, but in the past two years has begun to

## CRITIC'S CHOICE

make installations which incorporate painting, drawing and sculpture into a larger, less formal whole. His work in this show, entitled "Map, Monument, Fallen Mortal", powerfully combines the various traditions, eastern and western, which have gone to his formations. South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Road, SE5 (071-703 6120) Tue-Fri 11am-6pm (Thur to 7pm), Sat-Sun 2pm, until February 20.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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The Insolvency Act 1986, section 12(1) provides that a person who is a director or officer of a company which is a member of the Companies Limited by Guarantee, and who is a director or officer of the company, shall be liable to a fine of not more than £5,000 if he is found guilty of an offence under section 12(1) of the Act.

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# A headful of dust-jackets

It is vital to Alfreds to retain the tone of the novel — any novel — on stage. "We see so many adaptations where the voice of the writer has vanished totally," he says. "I feel that if you're going to take someone's work you are honour-bound



In the past two years he has revived the company's fortunes, and recharged his own batteries, with two co-productions: Mari-vaux's *The Game of Love* and *Chance* with Neil Bartlett and Jacques Prevert's *Les Enfants du Paradis* with David Glass. "It's very difficult for a director to learn because you always go to your own rehearsals," he says. "You never see how other peoples' minds work, or

● *A Handful of Dust* previews at the Palace Theatre, Watford (0923 325671) from Friday and opens next Tuesday

GERALD LARNER



Law, son of a Scots banker, was sentenced to death for killing a man in a duel in 1694, but escaped to the Continent. There, he persuaded the French regent to adopt a paper currency, founded what became the Royal Bank of France, and was appointed Comptroller-General in 1720, largely because of the apparent

## Law of diminishing returns

The slapstick palls, as do the knowing, roguish songs: "We're going to deal in futures, we're going

## Little Victories

Cochrane, WC1

Debi Mastel (Josie) is vigorously unmawkish and Alan Rile, masked and miming only, is hilariously, lovably gormless as Gordon. Occasionally scenes flag: the slightly

KATE BASSETT

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SUBSTANTIAL PAKMAN



A BBC television crew sets up to film at the High Court in Edinburgh. How long will it be before other British courts allow the cameras in?

## Courting the TV cameras

As a televised trial in America captures world interest, Frances Gibb reports on an experiment in Scotland

Millions of American viewers were riveted to their TV screens for daily coverage of the "penis chopping" trial last week. Like the William Kennedy Smith rape trial before it, the trial was not viewed with British audiences, too.

Entertaining it may be; but the coverage also sheds light on the workings of US law. In Britain, the laws against cameras being allowed in the courts have meant a total prohibition on television or press photography since 1925, ensuring that public knowledge of the workings of our courts derives very much from television drama.

All this may soon change. A trial of a man charged with importing cocaine began in the High Court in Glasgow this week. At the back of the courtroom is a small, unobtrusive video-cassette camera, filming all the proceedings. The crew, in jackets and ties, are barely noticeable. The result will be part of a groundbreaking series of documentaries, in which for the first time cameras have filmed trials as they happen.

The BBC's programmes are the climax of two years' work in Scotland, which began when the country's most senior judge, Lord Hope, the Lord Advocate, signalled that judges would permit a carefully controlled experiment in televised justice. By a quirk of history, Scotland was not covered by the statutory ban on cameras. Months of detailed discussion between the BBC team and Lord Hope's office led to a set of guidelines.

Nick Catliff, the series pro-

ducer, says the result will be "fascinating and informative viewing", as well as reflecting well on the Scottish legal system. But the programmes will not, he says emphatically, approach the sensationalist drama of American-style televised trials. "The courtrooms are not about to become the staple diet of cheap thrills television," he adds. The cases are not even high-profile news-worthy ones; just run-of-the-mill trials, which would not have made news in their own right.

So far, attempts to change the law to allow even a similar modest experiment in England and Wales have run into the ground. The Bar promoted a private member's Bill in 1991 but the Government did not pick up the measure, and it failed to muster enough support for a second reading. Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, then Solicitor-General (now Attorney-General), did not oppose the Bill but voiced the fears of "many commentators — judges, lawyers and lay people" that the presence of cameras would add to the pressures on those taking part in a trial.

Mr Catliff accepts that for the experiment to be judged a success, such criticisms must be met and that the team must show that cameras have not disrupted proceedings. "So far as I can tell," he says, "nobody seems to have been put off by being filmed or has tried to play up to the camera. The team will also have to show that the dignity of the court has been preserved and that editing has not distorted what actually happened."

His team has completed four of the six 50-minute programmes, to be run from the end of March under the title *The Trial*. Several trials will be shown: a murder and an attempted murder at Edinburgh's High Court; the Procurator-Fiscal's service, which features several Sheriff Court trials; the work of defence solicitors; and finally the drugs trial.

**The courts are not peopled by the likes of Rumpole**

"The arrangement is that we retain editorial control but the trial judges see the film to ensure accuracy," Mr Catliff says. The biggest problem has been obtaining the consent of witnesses, which is done via a letter drafted by the Lord President to avoid any contact. Often, much time and money has been spent on a case only to see a trial collapse because witnesses fail to respond. Nor has he so far managed to secure the agreement of all jury members (5 in Scotland) to being filmed, so they are filmed from behind.

Retrospective documentaries are, though, quite differ-

ent from news coverage on the day of the trial itself. Lord Hope has indicated he would consider experiments in news coverage only of the higher appeal courts, and Scottish TV and BBC Scotland are looking into how that might work. But the trail-blazing importance of *The Trial* is that it will influence how television coverage of courts develops.

In Scotland, both solicitors and the Faculty of Advocates are firmly in favour. Kenneth Pritchard, secretary of the Law Society of Scotland, says: "Provided this is run properly and under the direction of the judge, who can say when the cameras have to be switched off, the sooner television goes into the courts the better."

In England and Wales, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gossforth, has already come out in favour of an experiment in televising certain courts, and officials from the Lord Chancellor's department have been to see the Scottish filming in progress. Jonathan Caplan, QC, whose Bar Council report on televising courts led to the parliamentary Bill, says: "Everybody will be watching the Scottish experiment to draw conclusions as to the feasibility of amending the law in England. It really is ludicrous that people north of the border are able to see their courts and judges at work while those south of the border are still unable to do so because of a prohibition enacted almost 70 years ago."

If anything, sensational American television trial coverage only bolsters the case of those who resist cameras in court. But that kind of coverage is disliked just as much by those who favour allowing in cameras. The William Kennedy Smith trial, Mr Caplan says, was an object lesson in what not to do. He points out that Florida, where the trial took place, has probably the least strict rules of coverage of the 46 American states that permit cameras.

Scotland has shown that experiments can be sensitively controlled. More important, Mr Catliff says, the programmes are likely to show "millions of people, for whom television is their primary source of information, that the courts are not peopled by the likes of Rumpole and Perry Mason and that Scottish law is a much more down-to-earth business than LA Law and other television dramas".

## End this affront to individual freedom

Next Tuesday will be the tenth anniversary of the announcement of the ban on trade union membership at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ). The passage of time has done nothing to mitigate the injustice of the decision or the need for its reversal.

The main function of GCHQ is to promote the security of the United Kingdom's military and official communications and to provide signals intelligence for the Government. From 1947, when GCHQ was established in its present form, until 1984 all the staff there were permitted, and encouraged, to join national trade unions. Most did so.

On January 25 1984, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, told the House of Commons that, with immediate effect, staff at GCHQ would no longer be permitted to belong to a national trade union, but only to a departmental staff association approved by the Director of GCHQ. There had been no prior consultation on this matter with the trade unions or GCHQ employees.

The Council of Civil Service Unions brought judicial review proceedings. Because of the Government's failure to consult before introducing the ban, Mr Justice Gidewell granted a declaration in July 1984 that the decision was unlawful. The Government successfully appealed, relying in the Court of Appeal and in the House of Lords on a fresh argument not advanced before Mr Justice Gidewell: that prior consultation was not possible because of national security considerations. The House of Lords emphasised that but for this new argument the declaration would have been upheld. The appeal courts were unwilling to assess the strength of the national security considerations, which were held to be non-justiciable.

The cloak of national security protected the Government from the obligation to provide any rational explanation for the ban. There had been no industrial action at GCHQ since April 1981, almost three years before the decision was announced. The trade unions offered a no-strike agreement, which would have protected GCHQ against future disruption without requiring employees to tear up their union cards. That compromise solution accorded with the recommendation of the House of Commons Employment Committee in February 1984. In any event, since trade unions can recruit in other sensitive parts of the Civil Service, it was, and remains, difficult to understand why basic rights should be denied at GCHQ.

A staff federation was formed at GCHQ in May 1985. Its inadequacy as a substitute for trade union membership was reinforced by the 1989 decision of the Certification Officer, who refused its application for recognition as an independent trade union because its existence was dependent on the approval of the Director, and staff had no option to join another trade union. The Certification Officer's decision was upheld in December 1992 by the Employment Appeal Tribunal. Trade unionists at GCHQ raised their grievance at international level. In January 1987, in one of its more puzzling decisions, the European Commission of Human Rights dismissed a complaint that the ban on trade union activity at GCHQ was a breach of Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects the right to freedom of association.

The International Labour Organisation of the United Nations has adopted a more sympathetic, and realistic attitude to a similar complaint. In a report to be published this year, the ILO is expected to conclude that the Government has breached Article 2 of the 1948 ILO Convention on Freedom of Association, which provides that "workers and employers, without distinction whatsoever, shall have the right to establish and, subject only to the rules of the organisation concerned, to join organisations of their own choosing without previous authorisation."

In 1984, rational debate on the merits or otherwise of the ban was largely a waste of breath. It was widely understood in political and legal circles that otherwise inexplicable decision to prohibit trade union membership at GCHQ was one application of a basic principle on which the Government was based from 1979 until 1990: when Margaret Thatcher decided that a proposal was to be implemented, then it would be, irrespective of its wisdom or consequences, and few civil servants or ministers would dare argue to the contrary.

Last month, the Prime Minister met with trade union leaders to discuss the ban on unions at GCHQ. Little progress was made. It is regrettable that John Major has not yet found it possible to dissociate his Government from one of the most petty, divisive and unjustified steps taken by his predecessor.

Since neither our political nor our legal system is mature enough to impose restraints on the executive in such a matter of "national security", only the ILO has the power to promote change by sufficiently shaming the United Kingdom for its denial of basic human rights.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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## The cost of justice

THE Government will come under strong pressure to amend its Criminal Justice Bill, which enters its committee stage today, to enable the creation of an independent body to investigate miscarriages of justice.

Justice, the all-party law reform and human rights group, will be in the lead in tabling an enabling clause to the Bill, which is now in the Commons. Justice, chaired by Lord Alexander of Wealden QC, is being helped by Coopers & Lybrand, which has seconded a senior management consultant on a pro bono basis to work out what resources such a body would need, a key issue.

Meanwhile, the group will make sure that the question of tackling miscarriages of justice remains high-profile. Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice, tomorrow gives his Tom Sargent Memorial lecture. Justice (wrongly described in the Law pages

last week as "formerly the National Council for Civil Liberties" — that, of course, is Liberty, the civil liberties pressure group) has now reached £720,000 in its appeal for funds to put it on a proper financial footing. The target is £1.25 million. Some of the big law firms have given generously and donations are hoped for from others.

### Writ large

SOLICITORS are up in arms over the costs of issuing High Court debt writs. Michael Lane, of Lane & Co., a Walsall firm, points out that from January 11, the fees went up from £70 to £100. Creditors are entitled to have these fees reimbursed by the defaulting debtor under a scale of fixed costs. However, though the fees have risen, the fixed costs — in the case of debts under £5,000 — have not been increased to match the rise. The

result, he says, is that the creditors are £30 out of pocket whenever they take a debtor to court. The creditor is a further £10 out of pocket when he or she proceeds to have the judgment enforced.

### Breakdown kits

THOSE who cannot face the new divorce procedures which may be brought into effect might like to buy the new do-it-yourself divorce kit now on sale at W.H. Smith. "The Divorce Pack", a guide to how to fill in the forms to apply for a divorce, has been drafted by a team of solicitors and barristers.

Christopher Heron, a director of Eagle Legal Forms, which has devised the pack, says it is being launched at a time when legal aid is out of reach for most people not on income support. "Some people simply cannot afford to pay the legal bills in order

to obtain a divorce," he says. And Woolworth is offering a divorce video-cassette. The 55-minute video, *A Practical Guide to Divorce*, from Castle Communications, has been produced by Nicholas Webb, a lawyer and businessman, and also features Michael Jones, a family law barrister.

### Sow easy

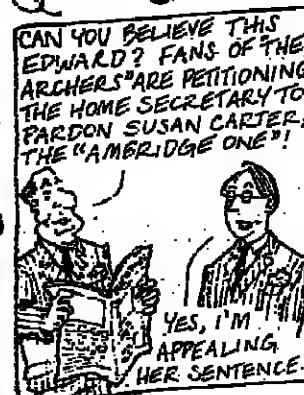
PERHAPS the police should stop trying to play down one of their nicknames — "pigs" — and embrace it with pride. A fleeing burglar's attempt to escape the police in Texas by ducking into a sty gave Jamona, a 200lb black and white sow, the chance to show that pigs are in the front line in the fight against crime.

Rick Charles, her proud owner, told *The National Law Journal*: "Jamona had him by a leg when the cops arrived. She grew up with dogs and I'm convinced that she thinks she is one."

● Goldborn Davies Mathias asks us to make clear that it represented Roger Levitt on his trial and that Stephenson Harwood (Law, January 11) represented Mark Reed, the second defendant.

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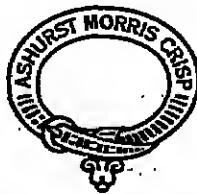
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An increase in the number and size of fraud cases is requiring specialisation by law firms, Edward Fennell reports

A big rise in the volume of money involved in fraud cases during 1993 will be revealed by figures to be issued later this week by the forensic unit of KPMG, the chartered accountants.

"The total has risen from £637 million in 1992 to £704 million in 1993," says Ian Huntington, the head of fraud investigation at KPMG and the former assistant director on the Robert Maxwell case at the Serious Fraud Office.

As concern mounts over fraud and business crime, it is no surprise that law firms are developing their expertise in this field. Many leading City outfits have created specialist units in the wake of the Maxwell and BCCI affairs. McKenna's, Lovell White and Wilde Sapte have carved reputations for solid work.

From today, however, the name to be reckoned with may be Irwin Mitchell, a Sheffield firm which has launched a Business Crime Unit, under the leadership of Kevin Robinson. Mr Robinson has a reputation as one of Britain's leading criminal lawyers. His work on behalf of Paul Henderson, a Matrix Churchill director, was critical.

Mr Robinson claims that solicitors are often the unsung heroes of fraud cases. "Although the role of counsel is important, the solicitors make the bullets that counsel fire," Mr Robinson's reputation,

## Rise in fraud lures the lawyers

however, hangs on more than just a couple of very high-profile cases. Years of dealing with street crime, as well as with breaches of corporate law, have given him an insight into the working of the criminal justice system so that he feels entirely at home dealing with police investigations.

"City law firms are very good but most of them don't have any substantial experience in handling crime," Mr Robinson says. "and the tactics are different from normal commercial work."

Working alongside Robinson in his new business crime unit are Trevor Ashforth, a former CID officer, and Michael Reader, a former tax inspector. This combination of skills, Mr Robinson believes, puts Irwin Mitchell in a unique position.

"Trevor Ashforth has been helping me for the past four years, having spent 12 years with the police, investigating multi-million pound fraud," Mr Robinson explains. "He is superb in advising clients during police station inter-



Kevin Robinson, who will lead a unit set up by a firm of lawyers to help business people accused of fraud

views because of his understanding of the procedures."

Mr Reader's background in the Revenue and as a partner with Spicer & Pegler means the firm has on tap knowledge of tax and VAT regulations, as well as of auditing standards and practices.

Although fraud is likely to be the main area of work, Mr Robinson insists the practice will be broader. "We're offering a service to any businessman or woman who gets involved in a criminal investigation, whether that relates,

for example, to VAT enquiries, tax evasion, breaking regulations or anything else."

Mr Robinson says increasing numbers of business and professional people may find themselves in the dock through no fault of their own, as in Matrix Churchill.

"Business people are usually terrified when confronted by the police," Mr Robinson says. "If found guilty, they have so much to lose. An important part of our job is to maintain their morale during what can be a long drawn-out process.

One way to do that is by showing you know what you're talking about. If you have to run off to counsel for advice all the time, you're not doing your job properly."

Ironically, it is fellow professionals who may make up an increasing number of Mr Robinson's clients: almost a half of the new cases on the KPMG fraud barometer involved lawyers, accountants or financial advisers. Mr Huntington says that the surge in mortgage fraud, and the fact that more than half the membership of

the various self-regulating bodies under the Financial Services Act are solicitors and accountants, makes it almost inevitable that these professionals will find themselves being prosecuted.

"In some ways, accountants and solicitors are the most demanding clients," says Mr Robinson. "The consequences for them are extremely serious. They expect an enormous amount from their legal adviser, who has to work even harder to maintain their confidence. I had one solicitor client who went out of his way to try to score points off me in his legal knowledge, and there was an accountant so overwhelmed by the accusations that he couldn't bear to come to the office for our meetings."

Looking to the future, Mr Robinson and Mr Huntington predict there will be increasing intermeshing of the criminal and corporate aspects of business crime. Procurement fraud is on an upward trend, while the changes in the management of public services may create conditions in which civil servants are more vulnerable to temptation.

Mr Huntington says: "The cutbacks in middle management and the breakdown in traditional loyalties combined with the contracting out of services are all creating an atmosphere in which we can expect to see an increase in fraud."

## Justice is not just another product

How can performance-related pay policies work in the magistrates' courts?

Today Parliament debates proposals for a radical reorganisation of the magistrates' courts' service. Magistrates have had to cope with many changes over the past few years and now we are to be shaken up through the Police and Magistrates' Courts Bill.

Since the original proposals came out in the White Paper in February 1992, there has been much debate. Magistrates are concerned about changes that they see as striking at their judicial independence, particularly the placing of the justices' clerks on fixed term contracts and performance-related pay under a new Chief Justices' Clerk whom, they say, will be accountable to the Lord Chancellor.

In an unprecedented move, the Central Council of Magistrates' Courts' Committees, the Magistrates' Association, the Justices' Clerks' Society, the Association of Magisterial Officers and the Standing Conference of Clerks to Magis-

trates' Courts Committees joined together to issue proposals for an alternative framework.

In an effort to ensure that justices' clerks are not at risk of pressure from the executive, the groups seek a chief executive for the Magistrates' Courts Committees (the bodies that run magistrates' courts) rather than the new Chief Justices' Clerk proposed by the Lord Chancellor. They also want to curb new powers sought by the Lord Chancellor over committee amalgamations, the appointment of their chairmen, fixed term contracts and appointment procedures for senior staff.

Whether he or she is called a Chief Executive or a Chief Justices' Clerk, he will be an extra layer of administration. And if he is called the Chief Justices' Clerk, and is legally qual-

fied, he could exert the kind of pressure capable of undermining the independence of ordinary clerks who advise the magistrates.

The Lord Chancellor's department claims the Bill specifically states that in giving legal advice to benches, the justices' clerks are not subject to management direction, that judicial independence is to be preserved in the words of the statute itself. If clerks are put on fixed term contracts, problems are likely.

One justices' clerk who is also a Chief Executive on a fixed term contract told me he is worried about performance-related pay because

performance targets have yet to be identified. And as a magistrate, I am becoming confused about the ethos behind the changes. Fixed term contracts and performance-related pay may make sense in a business but a legal service cannot be measured like a manufactured product. Fixed term contracts are likely to lead to fixed term views.

More worrying is that the performance of the courts is being used in the calculations for cash limits for magistrates' courts' committees. I have visions of magistrates throughput-

ting hundreds of TV licence cases to get "brownie points" in one court while another struggles through a complicated lengthy criminal with one defendant.

The percentage of the grant associated with performance, about 25 per cent, is expected to rise to 100 per cent over the next few years. There are four heads of performance to be taken into account — 1, number of cases; 2, delay of cases; 3, effectiveness of fine enforcement; 4, quality of service. There is, however, nothing in this that seems to recognise the content of cases or the legal aspects. It is to be hoped that the current review of the cash-limiting formula will take them into account.

Most people agree, of course, that something had to be done about a system dating from the 1940s in

which the volume of criminal and civil cases has more than trebled. Reducing the number of magistrates' courts' committees and magistrates serving on them seems to make sense. None of these people has to be paid. The new tier of administration/bureaucracy will, like the new inspectorate, have to be paid for. Yet the Government expected the changes — apart from transitional costs, estimated at £5 million a year — to be put in place out of existing resources. Some committees would be able to afford them, others would find it extremely difficult.

The Government has suddenly produced £16.9 million for 1994-5, which partly reflects transitional costs. This does not seem to be based on any particular costing and where and to whom it will go is a mystery.

PAULA DAVIES

• The author is chairman of an inner London family proceedings court.

## Alarm on noise law

A NEW LAW to silence Britain's most unpopular noise, the nocturnal wailing of the rogue car alarm, came into effect this month. But lawyers predict it will fail.

The Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act aims to help local authorities to deal with car alarms and other street noise. But, claims Richard Stein, a barrister and expert in noise pollution, the Act is so procedurally tortuous that much of it will prove unworkable.

He says that the Act poses so many practical difficulties that local authorities will "want



nothing to do with it."

First step for a complainant is to phone a local environmental health officer (EHO) if one can be found. But, says Mr Stein, few local authorities have night-time "noise lines".

The EHO will have to locate the vehicle, affix an "abatement notice" and wait one hour. Only then can he act, probably by breaking into the car to turn off the alarm. And here, says Mr Stein, the Act's anomalies will cause problems. "The Act obliges the EHO to do as little damage as possible and leave the vehicle as secure as when he found it. He will probably have to travel with a locksmith and an alarm expert, so the whole business will become very costly... I think the expense will deter local councils."

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## Interview Psychology

There is no shortage of articles on how to succeed at interviews - what to wear, how to appear authoritative, how to sit down, how to get up, the importance of direct eye contact, and so on. It may sound useful; in fact it misses the point. Anyone who actually remembers these tips and tries to implement them all at an interview - trying to sit comfortably (but not too comfortably), wondering what to do with their hands and whether to cross or uncross their legs, looking authoritatively (but for only a few seconds) into the eyes of a rather bemused and increasingly startled interviewer - is probably risking for a fall.

It is not easy to deceive an interviewer. If the handshake doesn't give you away, the flicker of an eye or a break in the voice will. Concentrating on one particular body message, you will forget all the others. And the body, of course, gives off hundreds of cues all the time.

The answer is not to learn techniques, but to work yourself into the right frame of mind. Your body language will then flow automatically. This is not as easy as it sounds, however. You need to concentrate on the most positive factors - those you actually believe in. At the same time, you must suspend all your doubts. Focus your imagination. See yourself enjoying the new job and doing it well. Build up a picture of success and satisfaction.

This all sounds terribly corny, I admit, but it works. You will impress the interviewer with your enthusiasm - with the sense that you really want the job. A QC, it is said, once remarked: "Advocacy is just a question of sincerity. When you can fake that, the rest is easy."

Michael Chambers

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The candidate will be required to demonstrate an interest in international commercial practice and a commitment to working and living in the region. A working knowledge of Arabic would be advantageous, but is not essential.

Initial interviews will be held in London on 27 and 28 January 1994.

Applicants should reply to Box No 5537 giving an indication of salary expectations and a daytime telephone number.

## LEGAL ADVISOR

Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association is one of the larger mutual life offices in the United Kingdom, managing assets in excess of £6 billion, and offering a full range of unit linked and conventional life assurance and pension policies.

A new position has been created in the Legal Department for a qualified Barrister or Solicitor with four to five years' PQ experience. The successful applicant will enjoy the support of a team of eight people of which four are qualified lawyers. You will assist the Company Secretary (a Solicitor) in providing legal services to the Association with an emphasis on regulatory, audit and compliance work.

You should enjoy working in a fast moving environment as well as being able to respond to the challenge of longer term research and development projects on a wide range of issues.

As well as a first class working environment and a challenge worthy of a lawyer of the highest calibre, we provide a salary up to £40K. Benefits include a company car, mortgage subsidy, non-contributory pension, subsidised BUPA, free lunches and assistance with relocation to an attractive part of Hertfordshire.

To apply, please write with a full CV detailing your current remuneration package to Mrs Jay Anderson, Senior Personnel Officer, Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association, Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2ST.

PROVIDENT MUTUAL



TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 071 481 4481

# LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:  
071 782 7826

## JUNIOR CORPORATE LAWYER 1-2 YEARS QUALIFIED

Our Client, a leading medium sized City practice, has expanded strategically in recent years and consequently provides an impressive all round range of services which extend beyond the traditional core areas.

A vacancy exists in the Corporate Group for a 1-2 year qualified assistant solicitor. The successful candidate will have an excellent academic record and will have acquired experience in a top flight City practice of a range of corporate work, including mergers and acquisitions, venture capital transactions, corporate restructuring and joint ventures. Experience of flotations and Yellow and Blue Book work would be an advantage.

Our Client's Corporate Group is growing and this represents an excellent opportunity to join a close knit specialist team and to enjoy the sort of exposure to quality work and high profile clients that few other firms can offer assistants at this level.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Jonathan Brenner on 071-377 0510 (071-226 1558 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174.

ZARAK  
MACRAE  
BRENNER

**ZMB**

## LONDON / MIDLANDS

**FSA**  
London office of international firm seeks FSA specialist to complement high profile corporate team as part of long term plan to develop full service UK legal practice. Successful candidate needs demonstrable track record in securities law in the UK, US and also, ideally, Hong Kong. Immediate salary partnership with swift integration into equity. (Ref:2415)

**COMPUTER LIT**  
Well known City firm with pre-eminent litigation reputation has launched a new specialist unit dedicated to handling high profile disputes in the computer/lit sphere (e.g. software engineering disputes, claims against commercial. Assistant with 4 years' post it sought to play key marketing/fee earning role, working closely with lead partner. First rate technical and interpersonal skills are prerequisites. Genuine prospects. (Ref:2866)

**INSOLVENCY MIX**  
Leading City insolvency practice seeks assistant, 1-3 years qualified, to handle contentious and non-contentious insolvency work, liaising closely with head of department. Excellent career prospects. High profile corporate disputes. Strong emphasis on close client contact and immediate responsibility for complex, stimulating caseload. Will suit ambitious lawyer with excellent technical and interpersonal skills. Very good prospects. (Ref:2184)

**FSABANKING**  
Large City firm with busy banking department seeks financial services specialist with, ideally, two years' experience to work in multi-disciplinary team within the specialist group. Experience is required of all aspects of FSA plus substantial experience of investment management and custody arrangements. Offshore based experience would be an advantage. (Ref:2895)

**CONSTRUCTION**  
Leading Midlands practice seeks senior construction specialist with experience in both contentious and non-contentious areas. The role will involve consideration of the existing construction practice and launch of a dedicated construction unit. Claims include well known developers, contractors, professionals and their insurers. Full support will be given to market the new group. Immediate partnership envisaged. (Ref:2840)

**BANKING**  
Pre-eminent banking team at blue chip medium-sized City firm seeks further assistance at the 2-3 year level to advise borrowers and lenders on a stimulating range of work, including asset and project financing, syndicated and single lender arrangements. Some capital markets experience would be an advantage as the firm has a growing reputation in this sphere. First rate City salary and benefits package and excellent prospects. (Ref:2814)

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**  
Medium-sized City firm with excellent reputation in the employment law sector seeks academically strong 1-3 year qualified assistant to handle share incentive and employee tax work, including advice on share option schemes, employee benefit trusts and other employee benefit arrangements. Successful candidate will have a practical, commercial approach and good client management skills. (Ref:2802)

**PROPERTY LIT**  
Established and successful medium sized City firm has immediate requirement for junior litigator to join a department specialising in property disputes. Successful candidate requires 18 months-2 years' relevant post. Scope to handle broader range of commercial disputes. Friendly and relaxed working environment with high quality work. (Ref:2845)

ZARAK  
MACRAE  
BRENNER

**ZMB**

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Lisa Hicks, Jonathan Brenner or Sally Horrox (all qualified lawyers) on 071-377 0510 (071-733 1815 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174.

## PROVINCES

**OXON**  
Young commercial property assistant (under 30) with circa 2 yrs' post it to handle a broadly-based mix of interesting commercial property work. Must enjoy client contact.

**AVON**  
Excellent opportunity for a senior planning/environmental specialist with the ability to head up and develop a specialist department within this well established firm.

**W. MIDLANDS/LEEDS**  
Bright young solicitor ideally with circa 2 yrs' experience of p.i. claims to work closely with clients investigating and advising on employees' liability claims.

**SURREY**  
Outstanding opportunity for commercial litigator with management and practice development skills to make a positive career move to an established commercial practice.

**LEEDS/MANCHESTER**  
Bright litigation solicitor with 1-3 yrs' commercial and insolvency litigation experience now sought by leading City centre firm.

**DORSET**  
Leading practice seeks a young solicitor with a broad range of co/consum experience preferably from a large regional firm.

## LONDON

**COMPANY/COMMERCIAL**  
Small firm with an outstanding reputation in entertainment seeks to complement its expertise by the addition of a senior corporate lawyer. A following is necessary.

**MEDIA**  
Rare opportunity within a niche media practice for a solicitor with experience in all aspects of film production, preferably from private practice. Fast track to partnership.

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**  
Commercial firm seeks a further partner with sound experience in all aspects of commercial property work, including development. Some following needed.

**CORP FINANCE**  
Niche firm with reputation in F.S. and investment management seeks City-trained solicitor with "hands on" experience in corporate finance or related areas.

**LITIGATION**  
Friendly firm seeks bright commercial litigation assistant with partnership potential. Insurance lit. experience advantageous.

**LIBEL**  
Solicitor with sound litigation experience sought by well known practice to handle libel, defamation & civil actions.

## IN-HOUSE

**EMPLOYMENT**  
London - Non-contentious employment law specialist sought for challenging role within leading international consultancy firm. Strong academics are essential.

**EMPLOYMENT**  
Leeds - Prestigious international consultancy seek high calibre specialist to develop employment law practice. Excellent opportunity for ambitious, business-minded lawyer.

**FSA/COMPLIANCE**  
Professional body seeks FSA specialist to generally advise upon the Rules, represent their interests at meetings with the SIB and to monitor members' compliance.

**OIL/GAS - UPSTREAM**  
Top calibre upstream specialist sought to join expanding team of highly successful energy co., handling major international E & P projects. 2 yrs+ relevant experience required.

**CAPITAL MARKETS**  
Leading European bank seeks high calibre lawyer to join dynamic new issues team handling mainly Eurobond and Euroequity issues.

**PROPERTY LITIGATION**  
East Anglia - property litigator 2 yrs+ post it sought to join major financial services co. on initial one year contract.

Contact Karen Gill on 071-430 1711 or write to Graham Gill & Young, 44-46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. (Fax 071-831 4186)

**GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG**  
LEGAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## Legal Adviser - Asia/Pacific

### Hong Kong Based

Our client, one of the world's leading investment banks, is seeking to appoint a senior lawyer to take overall responsibility for the legal and compliance functions in Hong Kong and its other offices in the region. The position will be based at its South-east Asian headquarters in Hong Kong. The post will involve in particular:

- advising senior management and the business areas on a wide range of legal and regulatory issues
- developing and monitoring appropriate systems and controls for compliance in Hong Kong and other offices
- assessing and controlling transactional and non-transactional legal risk across the businesses

### Attractive Remuneration Package

Preferred candidates will be qualified in an English law based jurisdiction, aged over 30 years, with extensive experience of legal practice in securities and international capital markets.

This newly created position will be suitable for a person with undoubted legal flair and a commercially practical approach. A deep rooted interest in investment banking and a proven ability to assist clients in resolving complex legal and regulatory problems will be highly regarded. He or she must have a personality which matches the dynamism and demands of the region.

Please respond with full CV and salary details to Andrew Peck at:

THE RICHMOND PARTNERSHIP  
Canard House, 31-45 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7DN  
Telephone: 071-796 4254. Facsimile: 071-796 4255

## COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LAWYER WOKING



**Going Places**

£32,000/BONUS/CAR

3-5 YEARS' QUALIFIED

Going Places is a wholly owned subsidiary of AIRTOURS PLC and is the new trading name of the combined businesses of Pickfords Travel and Hogg Robinson Leisure Travel.

Airtours is one of the UK's most successful companies consisting of Airtours Holidays, the tour operator which has over 2m customers, Airtours International, its own airline and, with the acquisitions of Pickfords Travel and Hogg Robinson Leisure Travel, its own retail High Street travel company, thus creating a fully vertically integrated holiday group.

This expansion has created a requirement for a Commercial Property Lawyer to establish an in-house legal function to handle all the company's retail property issues including:

- Negotiating terms of agreements, leases, licences and all relevant documents relating to the acquisition and disposal of retail units.
- Landlord and tenant matters relating to renewals, licences, rent reviews and any disputes arising under relevant landlord and tenant legislation.
- General advice on contract/consumer law.

The position will report directly to the Finance Director and the successful applicant will need to demonstrate a high level of business acumen as he/she will be expected to advise management on both legal and commercial issues.

Please send a full CV, to David Harris, Head of Legal Services, AIRTOURS PLC, World House, Pickfords Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. SG9 6NN (closing date 18.1.94)

**Going Places**

## COMPANY SECRETARY/ LAWYER

The services of a company secretary are required by a medium sized, quoted company located in Southern Hampshire.

Preferred candidates will have the relevant qualifications and secretarial experience with a quoted company. A legal background would be a significant advantage.

Duties would include company secretarial, company legal, and certain personnel matters.

Please send a comprehensive CV including full compensation package to Karen Sale, Hall Harrison Cowley, 22-26 Commercial Road, Southampton SO1 0CE.

**HALL HARRISON COWLEY**  
RECRUITMENT

## TRUST LAWYER

### British Virgin Islands

The Citco Group is a rapidly expanding financial services group of trust companies and banks with over 25 offices in 14 countries. Citco offers professional and specialized services to companies and to institutional and individual investors who operate internationally.

The Citco Group is looking for a young solicitor with a good academic background and two to three years post-qualification experience. He or she will be required to further expand the trust department of our trust and company management company in the British Virgin Islands.

The successful applicant will be based in the British Virgin Islands and should have working experience in drafting trust documents and administering trusts, preferably gained with one of the large London law firms. Additional experience in corporate administration and company secretarial work would be an advantage.

The role of a Trust Officer encompasses a wide range of duties from the preparation and administration of trusts and the incorporation and maintenance of international business companies to register and transfer agency services for mutual funds and unit trusts. The position offers an excellent salary and benefits, with a non-contributory pension scheme, medical insurance, relocation expenses and with excellent prospects for the right candidate for a further career in the Citco Group of companies.

Applications in writing, including a full CV, should be sent (marked for the attention of Nicholas Brahm) to:

Citco Nederland B.V.  
World Trade Centre, Tower TB 17th floor  
Stravinskylaan 1725, 1077 XX Amsterdam  
The Netherlands. Fax (31 20) 6647557

## Attorney General's Chambers Vacancies

Counsel \$73,117 - \$79,272 (\$BDA = \$US)

The Attorney General's Chambers within the Bermuda Civil Service has a staff complement of twenty-seven and is responsible for providing a range of services to include: advising Ministries, Departments and Boards on the law, drafting legislation; presenting and directing public prosecutions and the supporting of the law reform committee.

Two vacancies exist within the Attorney General's Chambers for qualified lawyers with at least 5 years experience since call. Counsel must have proven experience in the fields of civil and criminal litigation, including experience before appellate courts and quasi-judicial tribunals and in providing advice on a broad range of topics of public and private law, preferably in a Government legal environment.

The successful candidates will be required to:-  
- prepare and present civil and criminal cases before the Magistrates' Courts and the Supreme Court and to appear before the Court of Appeal and numerous Tribunals;  
- advise all Ministries and Government Departments on general legal matters but especially in the areas of property, company and financial law.

Parliamentary Counsel \$86,568 (\$BDA = \$US)

A further vacancy exists for a qualified lawyer with at least 5 years proven experience since call which have been spent as a legal draftsman, preferably in a Government legal environment. A knowledge of transportation law, will be a distinct advantage. The successful candidate will be expected to draft both primary and subordinate legislation and to advise senior members of Government, various committees and Ministers on a wide range of legal matters and draft other legal documents as required. Parliamentary Counsel are required to draft using Word for Windows computer word processing system.

The successful candidates for the above vacancies will be each offered a 3 year contract. At present there is no personal income tax in Bermuda. Other non-refundable deductions currently amount to 7% of salary. Resettlement costs will be met.

For immigration purposes, applications require full details of personal and family circumstances, including number of dependents, academic and professional qualifications, and relevant experience. The names, contact addresses and telephone numbers of four references (two professional, two character) should be included.

Applications quoting Ref. No. 1864/04/5,8,25 to be forwarded by express air mail to arrive in Bermuda no later than February 18th, 1994.

Address to:-  
Secretary, Public Service Commission  
Global House, 43 Church Street,  
Hamilton, BERMUDA HM 12  
Fax: 0101 (809) 295-2858

**Bermuda**

## INTERNATIONAL FINANCE LAWYERS

THE CONTINUING GROWTH of our international finance work in London and abroad has resulted in opportunities for appropriately qualified lawyers in the areas of securities issues, including medium term notes, and/or the derivatives markets.

To be considered for these positions you must have a strong academic and first class professional record, be at least two years qualified and currently employed in a recognised centre of excellence in this field. You must also possess not only technical knowledge but a confidence and flair in dealing with people and commercial acumen.

In return you will receive excellent rewards and the opportunity to work with a team internationally recognised for its calibre of personnel. Through training and support you will be able to develop your career both in London and through our international network of offices in Europe, the Far East and the United States.

If you feel you have the necessary qualifications and experience then please apply in strictest confidence to:

John Renz, Senior Personnel Manager,  
Linklaters & Paines, Barrington House,  
59-67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA

**L  
&P**

**LINKLATERS & PAINES**

9.00am Russ and Jono 10.00 Richard  
1.00pm Graham Dene 4.00  
Jenny Vance 7.00 Mitch Johnson  
10.00 Neil Abbot 2.00pm Paul Coyne

**Justine Smith**

CLASSIC FM 100-102

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**BBC 1**

6.00 Business Breakfast (71383)  
 7.00 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and  
 Bill Dando (89225863)  
 9.05 Kilroy: Topical debate (4234780)  
 9.45 Newsround (4181925)  
 10.00 News (Ceejay), regional news and weather  
 (895854) 10.05 Playdays (4181925)  
 10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick: Weekly  
 magazine programme (61465876)  
 12.15 Pebble Mail with Judi Spiers (41015294) 12.55  
 Regional news and weather (6723224)  
 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceejay) Weather (35958)  
 1.30 Neighbours (Ceejay) (4181925) 1.50 XYZ  
 Quiz (13257079)  
 2.15 Columbo: Make Me a Perfect Murder. The  
 dishevelled detective searches for clues while the  
 boss and the lover of a ruthless television executive  
 are found dead (4181925)  
 3.50 Teddy Trucks (4181925) 3.55 Stick as a Parrot:  
 crossword puzzle (4181925) 4.10 Jackanory:  
 Worry Wren (4181925) 4.25 SuperTed (4181925)  
 5.00 Newsround (4181925) 5.10 Newsround  
 Drama series set in a secondary school (Ceejay)  
 (4181925)  
 5.35 Neighbours (4181925) (4181925)  
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Marilyn Lewis and Andrew  
 Harvey (Ceejay) Weather (401)  
 6.30 Regional news magazines (383), Northern  
 Ireland: Newsround  
 7.00 Holiday presented by Jill Dando from Washington  
 DC. Desmond Lynne travels to the west coast of  
 Ireland. Paul Gogarty reports from Kenya and  
 Sanjiva Gupta visits Slovenia (Ceejay) (4181925)  
 7.30 EastEnders (Ceejay) (4181925)

**BBC 2**

8.00 Breakfast News (Ceejay) (2125863)  
 8.15 Westminster Daily (7774737)  
 9.05 Daytime on Two: Educational programmes. Plus:  
 for children, 1.20 Pudding Tales (7422221) 1.25  
 Just So Stories: How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin  
 (44768789) 1.35-1.40 Rupert the Bear (88249683)  
 2.00 News (Ceejay) Weather, You and Me (62489925)  
 2.15 Pest and Present: Preserved. The Dutch  
 flood control project, the Delta Plan (4181925)  
 2.30 See Heart With singing and subtitles (4181925)  
 3.00 News (Ceejay) and weather followed by  
 Westminster Live presented by John Cole and Ian  
 Macwhirter (Ceejay) (482437) 3.50 News  
 (Ceejay) Weather, regional news and weather  
 (7358844)  
 4.00 Today's the Day: Quiz programme presented by  
 Marilyn Lewis (4181925)  
 4.30 People of the Past: John Lewis attempts to discover  
 Ullin's dark secret. In Welsh with English subtitles  
 (4181925) (4181925) 4.50 Wales: Price of Pica  
 (4181925)  
 5.00 Catchword: Paul Cole with another round of the  
 word game (4181925)  
 5.30 Film 94 with Barry Norman (4181925) (4181925)  
 6.00 FILM: Gray Lady Down (1978) starring Charlton  
 Heston as the captain of a nuclear submarine that  
 collides with a freighter and is left teetering on the  
 edge of an underwater ridge. Directed by David  
 Greene (Ceejay) (88249683)  
 7.45 Assignment: Enter the Dragon: Brian Barton  
 reports on how the Chinese leadership is  
 threatening to reclaim Hong Kong before 1997 and  
 asks for Governor Patten's reforms too little too  
 late (283676)  
 8.30 Food and Drink: Antonio Carluccio continues his  
 travels through Southern Italy, introduces a guide to  
 food producers. With Chris Kelly, Michael Barry  
 and Jilly Goodwin (4181925)  
 9.00 Quantum Leap: Scott Bakula stars as the time-  
 hopping scientist. This week he finds himself in the  
 body of a murderer in 1958 (Ceejay) (2125863)

**CHOICE**

Against All Odds: Margaret's Story  
 BBC1, 8.00pm  
 The heroine of this drama documentary, and some  
 heroine she is, fought a 24-year battle against the  
 medical profession, the legal profession and an  
 international drug company to secure justice for her  
 handicapped son. Kenneth Best was born a normal  
 baby but suffered chronic brain damage as a result of  
 a severe bout of whooping cough vaccination. That,  
 at least, is what Mrs Margaret Best (played by Maria  
 McDermott) set out to prove. Doctors and lawyers  
 were unhelpful and the drug company, the Wellcome  
 Foundation, denied responsibility. Dramatised by  
 Laura Larmann, Against All Odds salutes the  
 extraordinary tenacity of an ordinary woman with no  
 formal education and no financial resources.

40 Minutes: Heads and Tails  
 BBC2, 9.50pm  
 Among those appearing in Jane Stephenson's film,  
 which covers on the edge of pretentiousness but never  
 quite tips over, are a social psychologist, a Jungian  
 psychoanalyst and a chap who admits to medical  
 qualifications but claims to have found a cure for  
 baldness. The subject is hair and how seriously we  
 take it. Going into on top may be a well-known phobia  
 among males but women seem to worry about the  
 subject. Two other men have to be released for lack of  
 evidence. The film celebrates courage and a refusal to  
 be licked. It does so with superb photography and an  
 admirable lack of sentimentality. Despite the sickness  
 and exhaustion you desperately hope they make it.

Network First: An Everest to Climb  
 ITV, 10.40pm  
 Seven disabled mountaineers tackle one of the highest  
 peaks in the Himalayas. The Doctors of York, patron  
 of the charity which organises the climb, goes with  
 them. She admits to never having climbed a mountain  
 before. It is even more of a challenge to the others, all of  
 whom suffer from severe mental or physical  
 handicaps. The team spent most of their lives in  
 mental hospitals. One suffers from multiple sclerosis  
 and another from epilepsy. Their target is the 19,000-  
 foot Polak Peak, the southern spur of the Everest  
 massif. The film celebrates courage and a refusal to  
 be licked. It does so with superb photography and an  
 admirable lack of sentimentality. Despite the sickness  
 and exhaustion you desperately hope they make it.

Karachi Kops  
 Channel 4, 9.30pm  
 Tonight's visit to the Gulshan-Iqbal precinct is as  
 good as an episode of The Bill, which is meant to be  
 the highest praise. It has pace, rich characters and a  
 dazzling economy of narrative. It also happens to be  
 true. The cops are after a gang of car thieves. In  
 Karachi the hijacking of vehicles at gunpoint has  
 become an epidemic. The police pull in a quartet of  
 suspects. Two other men have to be released for lack of  
 evidence. They are grovellingly grateful: "Thank you  
 sir, may God give you a long life." A slippery villain  
 called Salim sends the detectives up blind alleys. It is a  
 lighter moment, for the viewer if not for the officers.  
 But sounds of the prisoners being beaten up off-  
 camera wipe away any smiles. Peter Waymark

**ITV LONDON**

6.00 GMTV  
 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw: Quiz game (4181925) 9.55  
 London Today (724383)  
 10.00 The Time... The Place (4181925)  
 10.35 This Morning (4181925) 12.20 London Today  
 (Teletext) and weather (2269508)  
 12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (Teletext) Weather  
 (227750) 12.55 Emmerdale (4181925)  
 (1252741) 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext)  
 (4181925)  
 1.55 It's a Vet's Life (Teletext) (1252148)  
 2.20 A Country Practice (4181925) 2.50 The  
 Young Doctors: Hospital drama (3452524)  
 3.20 ITN News headlines (7165682) 3.25 London  
 Today (7164933)  
 3.30 Rainbow (7190592) 3.40 Total TV (4181925)  
 3.50 Twinkl, the Dream Belong (7234770) 4.00  
 Bungle the Little Hippopotamus (1935586) 4.15  
 Hurricane: Armistice (4181925) 4.40 The  
 Tomorrow People: Time travelling drama with  
 Kristian Schmid (Teletext) (7993147)  
 5.10 Home and Away (4181925) (5367147)  
 5.40 ITN Early Evening News with John Suchet  
 (Teletext) Weather (679586)  
 6.00 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (83895)  
 7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (5439)  
 7.30 Beam and Da Silva: The investigators seek out the  
 London landlords who are exploiting the housing  
 benefit system (83)  
 8.00 The Bill: No Job for an Amateur. WPC Ackland  
 discovers that the suspect for an assault on a  
 nurse's home has a record of attacking prostitutes.  
 (Teletext) (4147)

**CHANNEL 4**

6.35 Starcom: Cartoon (4181925)  
 7.00 The Big Breakfast (59459)  
 9.00 You Bet Your Life: Quiz show with Bill Cosby (4181925)  
 9.30 Schoofie: Eureka! (4181925) 9.45 Stop, Look,  
 Listen (4181925) 10.00 Fourways Farm (505844)  
 10.10 Live with Technology (4181925) 10.27  
 Timelines (3838383) 10.44 Good Health (832031)  
 11.00 Science in Focus (3430876) 11.22 Stage  
 One (897825) 11.40 How We Used to Live  
 (5243944)  
 12.00 House to House: Political news with Maysa Even  
 (33925)  
 12.30 Seamside Street: Early-evening series with special  
 guest Julia Roberts (13878)  
 1.30 Alfred J. Kwak: Animation (4181925)  
 2.00 FILM: Land without Music (1936, b/w) starring  
 Richard Tauber as an operatic tenor who leads a  
 rebellion when the ruler of a small European state  
 outlaws music because she believes it is making her  
 subjects lazy. Directed by Walter Forster (19437)  
 3.30 Profiles of Nature: Walter and Maysa Forster's film  
 capturing the feeding techniques and courting  
 rituals of the roseate spoonbill, a large pink  
 waterbird found in the West Indies and central and  
 south America (1197876)  
 3.55 A Brush with Art with Alwyn Crawshaw (4181925)  
 (Teletext) (4537258)  
 4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (4181925) (876)  
 5.00 Oprah Winfrey Show: America's favourite agony  
 aunt shows off her new stiletto figure and her fiancé  
 Steadman Graham (Teletext) (4181925) 5.50  
 Laurel and Hardy (4181925)  
 6.00 Beethoven: The capped crusader and his trusty  
 sidekick battle with the Penguin (741)  
 6.30 Gamesmaster: Dexter Fletcher and Patrick Moore  
 with tips and reviews of computer games (321)  
 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (834383) 7.50  
 Comment (Teletext) (460073)  
 8.00 Grow Your Greens (Teletext) (4181925)  
 8.30 Wild Britain: Valley Beneath the Sea. A new  
 series on the mixed fortunes of Britain's wildlife.  
 The first programme follows the River Fal, from its  
 source high on the Cornish moors to the sea,  
 encountering a variety of habitats and a curious  
 fish that can change sex (Teletext) (1236)

**RADIO 1**

FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Bruno  
 Brookes (FM only) 7.00 Steve Wright in  
 the Morning 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00  
 Emma Freud with the Lunchtime Show  
 1.00am 12.30-12.45 Emma Freud  
 2.00am Mark Goodier in the Afternoon 4.00  
 Nicky Campbell with the Evening Show  
 4.30-5.00am Newsweek 7.00am Evening  
 Session 8.00-9.00am The Day After  
 10.00am Mark Radcliffe 12.00-1.00am  
 Ian Pearson (FM only)

**RADIO 2**

FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy  
 8.15am Paula Fox 9.00am The  
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SPORT

# CRICKET 40

FLAWLESS CENTURY  
BY CRAWLEY  
SAVES ENGLAND A

# SPORT

TUESDAY JANUARY 18 1994

TENNIS 42  
COURIER SURVIVES  
SCARE IN  
FIRST ROUND

Sugar can affect England outcome

## Venables fate dependent on FA hearing

By Keith Pike

ALAN Sugar, the business tycoon who drove Terry Venables out of White Hart Lane, can today also deprive him of the job he covets most — manager of the England football team. However, the likelihood is that Venables will have fulfilled his dream by the end of the week and possibly by teatime tomorrow.

Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, who dismissed Venables as the club's chief executive in May, appears before an FA Premier League commission of enquiry that has been investigating alleged financial irregularities at the club. As a result of Sugar's evidence, Venables will either be confirmed as Graham Taylor's successor or removed from the running.

The Football Association, as well as Venables, will be holding its breath. After scouring the country for seven weeks, during which time Venables's rivals for the job were ruled out one by one, it has finally settled on Venables as the man to reinvigorate an England team that failed calamitously in the World Cup qualifying campaign. Only Sugar can sour its hopes.

That Venables's credentials, measured simply in coaching terms, are overwhelming is not open to doubt. That his business dealings, both inside and outside the sport, have jeopardised his chances is equally clear. Even yesterday, as fresh allegations about Venables were being made in the *Financial Times*, Rick Parry, the chief executive of the FA Premier League, was denying suggestions that Venables has already been cleared of any supposed misdemeanours that might delay his appointment or deprive him of it altogether.

Privately, however, the inquiry team is confident that it will not hear any fresh evidence from Sugar today that will hinder the FA in its attempt to have Venables installed by Saturday, when the draw for the 1996 European championship rounds will be made in Manchester.

Parry, together with Steve Coppell, the former Crystal Palace manager, and Robert Reid QC, have been investigating claims made in the High Court last summer that a "bung" — an irregular cash payment — had been made by Tottenham to complete the transfer of the striker, Teddy Sheringham, from Nottingham Forest to White Hart Lane. Venables was then the club's chief executive.

The report in yesterday's *Financial Times* repeated allegations made in a Panorama programme on BBC television last year that Venables had acted improperly during the build-up to his takeover at Tottenham with Sugar in 1991.



Venables waiting

It is believed that Parry has informed the FA International sub-committee charged with appointing the next England manager that the commission has so far heard nothing that would force the FA to bring charges against Venables.

Yesterday, however, Parry said: "Anyone suggesting that any individual or club has been exonerated or cleared is, to say the least, premature."

Sugar's appearance before the commission today was, he said, purely coincidental. "Our inquiry is a totally separate matter and the FA have certainly not asked us to hurry up the procedure. We are not going to deviate from our original route of inquiry."

We have quite deliberately included a Queen's Counsel in our investigating team to give it real integrity and independence." However, if the privately-held view by the commission — that all the significant evidence Sugar holds has already been given to them — proves correct, confirmation of Venables' appointment should follow swiftly.

The international sub-committee, comprising Sir Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, Graham Kelly, the chief executive, Ian Stott, of Oldham Athletic, and Noel White, of Liverpool, met yesterday. This evening, along with its advisor, Jimmy Armfield, it hopes to be in a position to offer the job to Venables, and tomorrow — with Wembley stadium tipped as the most likely venue — the FA can officially parade its new man.

□ Unlike England, Wales do not expect to have a manager in place by Saturday, but they do by the end of the month and yesterday Terry Yorath's chances of retaining his position appeared stronger.

Alan Evans, the chief executive of the Football Association of Wales (FAW), confirmed that Bobby Robson, the former England manager, had rejected an approach at the weekend. Yorath's name is now one of four on its shortlist.

"You are always disappointed when someone pulls out of the running," Evans said. "Obviously, this reduces our options, but we understand his reasons and concerns. There are plenty of other names in the frame. We would not have made a decision this week anyway." Yorath's contract expired on December 31 after he had failed to renegotiate improved terms following Wales's elimination from the World Cup. He has since reapplied for his old job.

"We don't feel it is necessary to have a manager in place for the draw," Evans said. "We will have a manager before the end of the month."

Overseas football, page 40

## Colourless Witt is far from rosy



Katarina Witt, the former Olympic champion, asks *Where Have All The Flowers Gone?* during her routine at the European figure skating championships yesterday. Report page 40. Photograph: Thomas Kienzle

## Christie backs enquiry over suicide

By John Goodbody

ANDY Norman must either resign or be sacked as promotions officer in the controversy over the suicide of Cliff Temple, the sports journalist and coach, a source on the management board of the British Athletic Federation (BAF) said yesterday.

With the BAF agreeing to hold a further enquiry at its 15-strong management board meeting on February 4, into claims that Norman falsely accused Temple of sexually harassing female athletes, there is mounting pressure on Norman to leave his post as the most powerful British administrator in athletics.

As 350 friends, athletes and colleagues gathered in Folkestone yesterday at the funeral of Temple, athletics correspondent of *The Sunday Times* since 1969, Linford Christie, the captain of the British team and Olympic 100 metres champion, welcomed the enquiry.

Speaking from Australia, where he is undergoing winter training, he said: "It is important for every individual to be given the opportunity to respond to allegations and rumours in the media. Let us hope this can be done, bearing in mind the feelings of Cliff's family."

In one of the "suicide" notes left by Temple, who was found dead on a railway line in Kent, ten days ago, he wrote of the rumours about him and denied them.

The BAF is asking *The Sunday Times* for a copy of the tape in which Norman intimated that if the newspaper published an article harmful to his fiancée, Patima Whitbread, the 1987 world javelin champion, then an allegation might be spread that Temple molested Shireen Bailey, the 1988 Olympic finalist, who was coached by the journalist. Bailey has denied that there is any truth in the allegations.

Norman has not denied that he accused Temple, although he gave an undertaking to BAF officials in September that he would not repeat them.

A 16-page guide to the 1994 Times corporate golf challenge

## Cricket protest provokes uproar in Australia



Annets protest

Selection of sporting teams has ever been a source of controversy, but the arguments are usually restricted to ability rather than sexuality. In Australia this week, however, Denise Annets is claiming she has been omitted from the national women's cricket team simply because she is not a lesbian.

Annets, 29, has been the outstanding batsman in the Australian women's game for the past decade. The holder of 13 Test caps, she is their leading scorer in one-day cricket and played in the last two World Cups, sharing a record match-winning stand against England in the 1988 final. Now, after finding herself left out of the party which has just left for a tour of New Zealand, she has taken

Alan Lee looks at a controversy that has highlighted an unexpected form of sexual discrimination in sport

steps that could have repercussions for all women's sport.

The claim of Annets, a pharmacist, is that because she is a married heterosexual, her face does not fit with those who run the Australian team. This is not a peculiarly Australian problem, nor one confined to cricket. Women's sport, in this country and overseas, contains many such cases, but few, if any, of those who have previously suspected such persecution have gone public.

Annets went very public. She took her case to the Anti-Discrimination

Board, which is funded by the Australian government. By so doing, she realised she was terminating her cricket career. "Taking this course has blown out of the water my chances of ever getting back into the national team," she conceded.

She appears to be right on that count. Belinda Clarke, who replaced the long-standing Lyn Larsen as Australia's captain after their failure in last summer's World Cup, has replied to the charges with some asperity. "Denise has been left out because of her ability. It's a form

thing and I think these allegations are ridiculous, just sour grapes."

Annets, whose grouse is far more with those who administer the sport than those who play it, will not be surprised to find she has no support, either, from the president of the Australian Women's Cricket Council, Ann Mitchell, whose view on the fallen star is "she isn't fully fit".

What Annets cannot have expected, though, was the extraordinary, official response to her complaint. The Anti-Discrimination Board has told her that it cannot consider her case because although it is illegal, under Australian law, to discriminate against homosexuals, it is not illegal to discriminate against heterosexuals.

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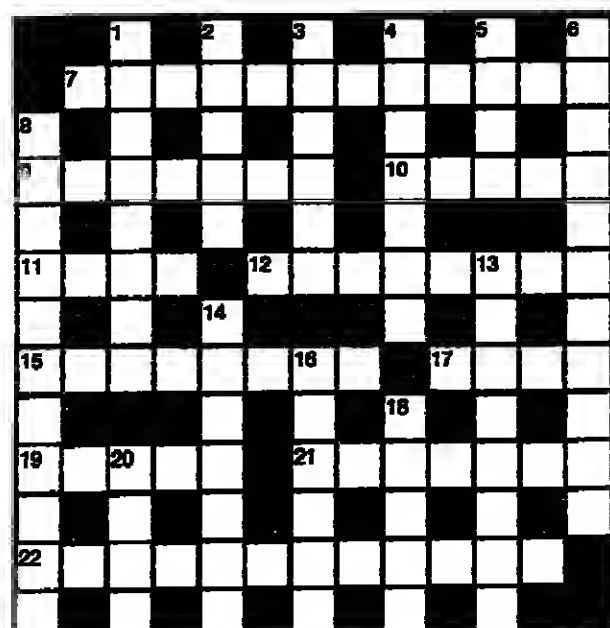
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 65

ACROSS

- 7 Transport of goods along retail chain (12)
- 9 Huge, giantlike (7)
- 10 Poem about beauties of country life (5)
- 11 Bring to disaster (4)
- 12 Seat of intellect in the brain (8)
- 15 Last; best (8)
- 17 Italian city with famous cathedral bell tower (4)
- 19 In itself (3,2)
- 21 Most relevant (7)
- 22 Senior Orthodox bishop (12)

DOWN

- 1 Administrative division (8)
- 2 Sharp pain; swindle (5)
- 3 Group of people; part of the state (6)
- 4 Joyful anniversary (7)
- 5 Near; large (of sum) (4)
- 6 Easily set alight (11)
- 8 Small manual fire-extinguisher (7,4)
- 13 Coerce; US public transport (8)
- 14 Beethoven's fifth piano concerto (7)
- 16 Powerful businessman (6)
- 18 Blacksmith's block (5)
- 20 Estimate; scold (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 64

ACROSS: 7 Away 8 Frontier 9 Lethal 10 Stable 11 Span 12 Unbiased 15 Palsetto 17 Glee 18 Vacuum 21 Cavity 22 Rational 23 Rank

DOWN: 1 Sweet pea 2 Hyphen 3 Affluent 4 Doss 5 Otawa 6 Well 13 Broccoli 14 Evening 16 Studio 17 Governor 19 Arab 20 Mimic

Today's position is from the game Hebdon - Rogers, Hastings Premier 1993. Connected rooks on the seventh rank are a terrifying sight for the defender. Here Black can force a quick checkmate. Can you see how?

Solution, page 40

Raymond Keene, page 11

By Philip Howard

DISSIGHT

- a. To blind
- b. An eyecore
- c. A spy-hole squirt

ENDAMASK

- a. A pantomime mask
- b. To paint
- c. To lodge with

HOMONOMOUS

- a. Under the same law
- b. Dwelling among men
- c. Agreeing with

TRADE

- a. An angry tirade
- b. The tree philadelphus
- c. A Turkish decree

Answers on page 40

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